



**Elliot LaPlante,
President, Class of 2008**

As graduation draws near, we are struck with the shocking realization that we have almost made it. We are almost graduated! But, Seniors, let's always remember the good times, the times we laughed and cried-- the times we had heartfelt talks and played silly pranks. Let's never forget our last Class Night, Senior Survival, the Trust Fall, Senior Rec., all-night study parties, week of

prayer, and so many other special moments.

As we look toward graduation, I know that we will have gained more than just a diploma. We have gained friends that will last a lifetime, experiences that can change our lives, and memories to keep with us forever. As a class I hope that we always remember that with God all things are possible and that He will always be with us. As we all go our separate ways, I look forward to the day we will all be together again.

UCA Seniors of 2008, I love you all and cherish all the fun times and memories. You are all truly amazing.

UCA selects new principal

by *Mindy Schreven*

With the closing of the 2008 school year, preparations are underway for the upcoming 2009 school year. With these preparations comes the appointing of a new principal.

It is a sad day as the much loved and appreciated Dr. Marvin Mitchell steps down from his role as UCA Principal to return to peaceful retirement. UCA was blessed by a year of his wise leadership. Though this parting is sad, excitement is in the air for the newly appointed principal. As recently announced on Alumni Weekend, Troy Patzer, UCA's Vice Principal for the past 4 years, will be the new Principal. He will be the first UCA alumnus to become Principal in recent years.

When asked how he felt about being the principal elect, Patzer responded, "Because of the great students and staff at UCA I am excited for the possibilities that will arise over the next few years." He is looking forward to working with students while adding to UCA's rich history.



Troy Patzer

Class of 2008

AIM:

Our goal is to influence history instead of merely observing it

MOTTO:

We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore

TEXT:

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

Romans 8:31

COLORS:

Black, Gold & Silver

Student of the Year

(student choice)

Rose Welser

Logan Villarreal

Student of the Year

(staff choice)

Mindy Schreven

Brady Weijohn

Spiritual Leader of the Year

Emily Muthersbaugh

Joe Tua

Principal's Choice Award

Esther Wolfkill

Ross Vyhmeister



Members of the photography class ponder the best perspective while photographing Grand Coulee Dam

Picture this

by Scott Guthrie

On Friday, May 16, more than a few excited UCA students were sitting at the flag pole waiting for a ride. They were the students that comprise the Photography class and the ride they were waiting for was going to take them across the state to beautiful parts unknown. The photo trip was intended to be a fun outing during which students could hang out, but at the same time work on different assignments for picture-taking that they had for the class.

During the trip the students met new people, saw beautiful scenery, and slept under the stars. The trip also included several unexpected detours such as when one of the drivers followed the wrong green suburban on the way to the zoo and ended up lost in Seattle. The outing provided many opportunities to learn. At one stop, the students were even able to talk to a professional photographer and UCA alumnus, Terry Loss, and learn how to better pursue their photographic interests. It was a good experience and made the class just that much more worth taking.

Students increase understanding of AIDS

by Elliot LaPlante

As the crisis of the AIDS epidemic deepens, African children struggle to stay alive and accomplish everyday tasks. According to an article on CNN.com, "Ten percent of the world's people live in Africa, but it is home to 90 percent of the world's HIV-infected children."

It is hard to imagine what life in Africa would be like—we can't see, hear, or feel what they experience. But World Vision Experience's "Step Into Africa" exhibit gives a small window into their harsh world. At this free exhibit, iPods are distributed that guide people through an interactive experience and a replica of an African village, where they follow the life of an African child.

On Saturday, May 17, 2008, 28 UCA students along with dean Nathan Henson and Lynda North visited this exhibit at Spokane's First Presbyterian Church. They enjoyed their time and the chance to view this amazing exhibit and gain more understanding of the terrible effect of AIDS. According to Mrs. North, "Everyone should go see this exhibit, it was so neat."

Yearbooks

by Dustin Horn

There is a familiar buzz moving through the campus. It is the sound of people running about, trading signatures, leaving their mark on a document that started on the first day of this school year and will continue forever. The yearbooks are here.

For the majority of students its release is a long-awaited, exciting event, but for some it is anticipated for a different reason. It is a relief. When asked how he felt about receiving the yearbooks, Logan Villarreal, Junior Editor, said, "I'm just glad it's finished." Students enjoy the yearbook but the work and time put into it is often overlooked.

The yearbook's design is a grueling process that requires constant dedication and hard work. Corresponding with colleges and parents for ad placements, page and cover design, photo editing, planning book layouts, and proofreading all the pages are just some of the tasks. These tasks begin at the beginning of each year and end just after spring break.

The first two weeks each year are used to design the cover and develop a theme. This is a very important part because it sets the tone for the rest of the book. Then the yearbook team moves on to the next task, page design. Page design continues throughout the entire process and is the largest part of the job and includes surveys, photos, quotes, editing, and more. After each page has been submitted, the printing plant sends copies back to be meticulously proofread before the final submission.

After all the work the yearbook staff has put into the book, enjoy it. It's made for you. Mr. Janke, yearbook advisor, leaves us with one final comment, "There is a golden ticket in one of the yearbooks, if you find it you can see my oompa loompas."

Can't think of anything to write? How about these tried-and-true gens?

*It's been great knowing you this year
Take it easy this summer
I didn't know you very well, but...
Remember all the fun times after lights-out.
I'll never forget that time on the bus.
See ya sometime
Keep in touch*

The Cali tour

by Noah Wallace

It all started on the afternoon of April 23 when the UCA Gymnastics Team packed their bags, loaded the bus and left for a seven-day tour.

The "Cali tour" as many called it was an amazing tour, stretching all the way from the wheat fields of Spangle to the sunny pastures of California. Throughout the tour the team performed a total of seven shows and at each one there was a crowd to help cheer them on. During the shows, little kids always screamed for joy at what they saw, even if it was just a simple forward roll or a crazy 4-high. The kids went ballistic no matter what, and they made a huge difference for the team on the whole tour.

The cities where the team performed were Tillamook, Roseburg, Yreka, Ukiah, Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Boise. The team also got to visit San Francisco and Reno, traveling well over 3,000 miles and logging over 45 hours of bus time.

Everyone made some really good memories that will always be there to make them smile and remember all the fun they had on the "Cali tour".

NHS

Membership in the National Honor Society at Upper Columbia Academy is based on scholarship, leadership, character, and service. These are the criteria established by the National Honor Society.

Each spring a committee evaluates all junior, and senior students who attain a grade point average of at least 3.5. Scholarship is the most important criterion and includes not only gpa but also the number and difficulty of classes taken beyond the basic graduation requirements.

Unusually negative or positive demonstrations of leadership, character, and service also effect a student's selection to the National Honor Society.

Membership in the Society is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities by which they were selected.



The gymnastics team celebrates their arrival in California

Musicians awarded at Musicfest

by Kevin Villarreal

From May 11 to 15, instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers from all over Washington made the yearly pilgrimage to Musicfest Northwest. Upper Columbia Academy had five participants this year. Elise Kinne, Sacha Kravig, Kevin Villarreal, Logan Villarreal, and Brianna Woodruff all left school for a couple hours to perform their various pieces in front of an adjudicator. It was a stressful yet rewarding experience for all.

Musicfest reaches far beyond Upper Columbia Academy, however. According to their website, "[Musicfest Northwest] is considered to be the largest festival of its kind in the United States." Over 1,200 young musicians participate each year. In each 30 minute class, an adjudicator provides written and oral comments and gives a score to each participant. An "excellent" performance is awarded a silver medal while a "superb" performance earns a gold medal. Participants from Upper Columbia Academy have always scored well, but this year there was a particular abundance of medals.

Elise Kinne was awarded a gold and two silver medals in the piano division. Logan Villarreal was also awarded a gold and silver medal but in the brass and vocal division. Kevin Villarreal and Brianna Woodruff each received a silver medal in the reed division, and Sacha Kravig received a gold medal in the vocal division. All of the students who participated in Musicfest Northwest are to be commended for preparing and performing for this exciting festival.

REGISTRATION
SUNDAY AUGUST 24

BUT MOST THINGS CAN BE COMPLETED EARLY!



photo by Michael Woodruff

Jumping for joy during the Marine Biology trip?

The great invertebrate search

by Logan Carter

As the bus full of eager Marine Biology students pulled into Rosario Beach, the ugly gray clouds that had been holding the sky hostage released their iron grip and allowed the sun to burst through. Kids jumped out, eager to get settled into their cabins on the sparkling beach before darkness overtook them.

Every spring, when the tides of the Pacific Ocean are low enough, Mrs. Haeger's Marine Biology class journeys to the coast for several days to observe and record the creatures they see.

The first morning came very quickly and the students gobbled down some breakfast and headed to their various stations for the morning which included kelp observation and Bible studies. Without even a pause, the groups soon headed out to the tide-pools of Rosario Beach to work on their transect projects, and soon the students found themselves in a vast mudflat in Padilla Bay searching for rare and interesting creatures in the muck.

The next two days consisted of an exciting ferry ride to visit the whale museum, a lighthouse used in orca study, Eagle Cove (where the most invertebrates were found), and an awesome journey through the Seattle Aquarium.

Although the couple of days the class had on this trip were incredibly busy, each new stop was incredibly interesting and just plain fun to explore. Junior Brittany Lambert exclaimed, "It was a total BLAST!!" Everyone else seemed to give a similar response.

Unwanted guests

by Sacha Kravig

I love blood drawings, don't get me wrong. My name is always on the list of special people who step in to the van and leave unable to move one forearm. The needle is plunged into my arm and wiggled around; then, they proceed to pump slightly-vital fluid out of my body. I have no problem with that. I find it entertaining. But, I volunteer for that. It's a whole new matter when I am forced to give up my blood . . . to little insects.

I hate mosquitoes. And something I always liked about UCA was that there weren't any in the spring. So I want to know who is breeding these vampire flies in their dorm rooms. And whoever it is, they need to stop . . . now. I know that I don't stand alone in this. There is one guy from 3rd West who always runs across campus waving his arms, screaming, and tripping over things. He ends up with thousands of bumps all over his body for his trouble. These pesky flies effectively stopped all sun-tanning on campus as all students are scared out of their minds that the Mother of all Mosquitoes might have them for lunch . . . or, at least, for an afternoon drink.

UCA policies should ban mosquitoes from the right to assembly on our campus. I think the sucking of human blood definitely removes their first amendment rights and their right to a fair trial. We could add a new PE class where freshmen run around flailing their arms in healthy exercise designed to persecute these unwanted organisms.

The fact that wasps weren't out by the front steps stinging people really made me happy, and I was looking forward to another month of sitting on the bricks, tanning in the sunshine. But none planned for the Great Mosquito Invasion. Caught unawares and unprepared, we experienced the horrible, itchy feeling generously shared by these miserable creatures.

Perhaps all we can do—for the sake of history—is write an epic saga about our last stand against the age-old nemesis: the mosquito.



UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

ECHOES

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This issue's contributors included:

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Noah Wallace, Kevin Villarreal, Logan Carter, Sacha Kravig,
Rainey Davis, Kaitlyn Fitch, Logan Villarreal,
Emily Muthersbaugh, Michael Woodruff, Kristin Stratte,
Mikki Montgomery, Sean Kirk, Rachel Van Dyke,
Brooke Bauer, Alexi Andregg, Mark Janke
and Stephen Lacey, adviser

RA's advise

by Rainey Davis

New students coming to UCA often have a few concerns about dorm life. What is it like? How is life different away from home? Thankfully, each dorm is equipped with an overabundance of Resident Assistants to answer these puzzling questions and offer some advice on their own.

A lot of the advice the RA's offer has to do with the showers. A common suggestion was to wear flip-flops to evade the ever-thriving garden of bacteria that presides over the shower rooms. "Get used to showering with a bunch of people," recommends Jose Alcala. "Sometimes incoming students have trouble getting used to showering in the same room as other guys." This is a good piece of advice as dorms are infamously known for their lack of privacy.

Assistant Head RA Scott Guthrie recommends always making sure your door is locked to ensure the safety of your valuables. Brady Weijohn summed up many of the others' sentiments by offering this advice: "Go to bed."

On the other end of the spectrum, the RAs also have good advice for making friends. "You'll make friends a lot quicker if you have food in your room," advises Sub RA Doug Wheeler. Girls' dorm RA Rose Welser says to "visit the other rooms on your hall and throughout the dorm so you get to know people better." RAs also suggest that new students get involved and keep their grades up. As Jon Gaskill puts it, "Make me proud."

But whatever advice the RAs give, the most important thing to remember is to be yourself. Jose Alcala says, "Don't be afraid to open up to other people, be yourself, and take as many opportunities to succeed as you can."

Girls' dorm faces changes

by Kaitlyn Fitch

As the school year comes to an end, so does our time with two of UCA's most influential staff members.

Dean Kristin Merritt (Assistant Head) and Dean Miriam Cruz (Task-force) are unfortunately finishing up their final year working on our campus. Over the past eight months, they have been serving as part-time supervisors, part-time chauffeurs, and full-time moms to the 77 girls living here in the dorm.

As far as next year's plans are concerned, they are still undecided. The possibilities appear to be endless and could include going back to college or, according to one, studying cannibals in the Amazon Basin. When asked what they're going to miss most about UCA, both said "the girls." "I've really enjoyed working with young people and watching them grow," says Dean Miriam. "It's been a pleasure coming back as an alumnus and giving back."

Have band, will travel

by Logan Villarreal

"Do you want to live here?" asked Dustin Horn, gazing out the bus window at a wind-blown, impossibly dusty Nevada. The response was only laughter.

On a grand tour of the West Coast, the UCA band and Choraliers traveled over 30 hours through Oregon, California, and Nevada. Stopping at churches and schools alike, the musicians found both the landscape and experience were a medley to be remembered.

No one will forget playing dodgeball in Pendelton. "That *made* the tour for me," said Michael Woodruff. Watching classmates scream in terrified joy at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom was also unforgettable.

But the group of nearly 75 students did not only play music and visit amusement parks. At the Weimar Institute, everyone pitched in to clean up the campus for their upcoming 30th anniversary celebration. In return, Doug Batchelor personally thanked the group in the cafeteria and invited them to play at the Sacramento Central SDA Church.

After so many performances, activities, and recreation, the 13-hour bus ride home seemed surprisingly short. It was a long tour, true, but it was rewarding nonetheless.



photo by Alexi Andregg

Time on the bus is always a joy



Jordan Vixie, Brianna Prohaska, Robert Jewett, and Nicky Fritz look down from a scaffolding at their Habitat for Humanity HOPE project

The final HOPE

by Michael Woodruff

Students got a break from school on a Friday in early May. It was HOPE Taskforce, a chance for students to do something different and go out of their way to help other people. Of course the added bonus was that no classes met.

One group of people headed east from school in a large van, meeting up with a few more people in the small town of Waverly. Several helped out around Bob Miller's place in town, weeding, hauling branches, and helping out in whatever ways possible for this kind elderly man. The remaining six kids and Pastor Ken headed on to the Waverly Cemetery, where quite a bit of storm damage was evident.

Over the next few hours, the place was transformed as fir cones were raked into heaps and then hauled away, and storm-blown branches were taken away to a brush pile out in the back. An unexpected bonus was having complimentary Oreos provided whenever a little energy boost was needed. While working alongside three Waverly residents, some of the group had a chance to learn gems of information about the history of the area.

Other groups went farther afield or stayed right at UCA, but overall the final HOPE of the year went off very smoothly. Kudos to Mrs. Haeger, Mr. Hartman, and others for making it all happen.

New paint, carpet cometh

by Emily Muthersbaugh

At the end of the year, students will leave the campus making way for the carpet layers and painters to come in and perform necessary transformations during the summer months.

Fundraising began for new carpet in the ad building nearly three years ago. A carpet committee was nominated two months ago to make the final decisions on the specific carpet to be used in each classroom, hallway, and office. Teresa Soule, a member of the carpet committee, said that the decision for the carpet colors were determined by several elements that already existed in the building, such as the classroom chair colors, the tile in the foyer, and the woodwork.

While the carpet has been stretched twice before and reglued several times, it still shows wear. The carpet has been used by almost 300 people every day for the past 10 years, meaning that this same carpet has seen the daily wear of over 60,000 pairs of feet.

Much of the funding for this carpet has come from parents, grandparents, and alumni. However, it has taken longer than planned to raise the money since many of these same people are much more eager to give to other needs, such as the worthy student fund. Some question replacing the carpet before the much needed renovation in both dorms and faculty housing.

Reunited voices

by Kristin Stratte

This year during Alumni Weekend a special group of alumni gathered for a Choraliers reunion. About 30 former Choraliers came for the weekend. On Friday at the first rehearsal there was excitement buzzing about the room. Everyone was so excited to see each other! After lots of hugs, everyone finally settled down and started singing. With lots of hard work and concentration, three practices later we were ready to perform.

During church service on Sabbath, the Alumni Choraliers sang. Many people were blessed and some were even moved to tears during Moses, one of the 5 songs that was performed. We all had a great time singing with the alumni. "It was a blast to direct such a talented group of singers!" commented Mr. Anderson, our choir director.

I know when I graduate from UCA I will be looking forward to coming back and singing in Choraliers reunions to come.

Spring Week of Prayer

by Rainey Davis

This year, the Spring Week of Prayer was given by UCA graduate Tommy Poole. Students were excited to see someone closer to their age preaching for the week, and they were not disappointed.

Tommy got everyone's attention by dressing up and talking like a southern farmer the first few days, and he picked student volunteers to participate in fun games illustrating life's path.

The theme for the week was "Walking the Jesus Path". Tommy described the importance of always following Christ even through the tough times, and by the end of the week many students were touched by his testimony and portrayal of Jesus.

Compatibility 101

by Scott Guthrie

One Wednesday in May during the announcements following worship, a long forgotten subject was brought up. Weeks earlier the seniors had come up with a fundraising idea—a computerized compatibility test. The process was simple: have students fill out a provided survey on what they like to do and why, send these off to the company who made the survey, and wait for the results. The hope was that students would pay a small fee to see whom in the school they were "compatible" with.

Things weren't too promising at first. Students and teachers alike complained that the surveys were a waste of time. It looked as if no one wanted to take the test, let alone see the results. But the survey was required, and everyone took it. Then, about a month after the surveys were sent, they came back. A few brave souls paid to see who their soul-mates at the school were. Pretty soon everybody had to know their results. The findings were talked and laughed about for days after, and the fundraiser turned out to be a smashing success.

More than a race

by Mikki Montgomery

Cancer brings a growing wave of heartbreak and pain into our world today and the organizers of Spokane's Bloomsday race recognize this and this year designated Cancer Patient Care as their 2008 charity.

On the morning of the first Sunday in May for the last 32 years, people have gathered in the streets of downtown Spokane to run, walk, and wheel their way not only to cross the finish line of the 12-kilometer course but also to raise money for charities. The tradition of throwing unneeded clothing into the trees along the streets as the day grows warmer before the race has also long supported the downtown goodwill stores.

But people simply enjoy getting out of their homes, into the streets, and with their friends to do something fulfilling and productive, and the race is a great place for people-watching. The weather this year was perfect, and over 42,000 finished the course.

The UCA student body and staff have long participated in the race, and again this year many were wearing their Bloomsday finishers t-shirts on the day after the race. If you weren't involved, don't worry. Give a high-five to your classmates when you see them in their bright red race t-shirts and join in next year. Stand up for the human race and support the cause.



Spiderman?

by Sean Kirk

Have you ever wanted to be like Spiderman? To be able to climb walls with just your hands, have super strength, or jump up tall buildings? I have thought about this many times, especially about climbing up the sides of buildings. So, I pitched the idea to a few friends of mine who also thought being able to scale buildings was awesome, and one Sunday we planned to attempt the feat right here on campus.

We set up on one side of the music building and actually climbed the outside wall, just using hands and feet. Then, all of a sudden, Pastor Fred came roaring up in his truck out of nowhere, and immediately we knew what was going to happen. Our spider days had come to a tragic end.

Next time you dream of being Spiderman, forget the idea . . . it voids the school's insurance.

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A comforting day . . .

by Rachel Van Dyke

The clouds were just lifting off the distant shore, revealing the icy snow-capped mountains. Just to the right was the open ocean, flowing off into the distance, seeming to call to any daring seaman. The bay lighthouse turned off on the far shore and the city glow was dimming in the morning light.

Rocky and laden with driftwood, the beach curled around the small bay. A beach fire served as some warmth against the cool, salty sea breeze. Students were scattered across the beach like pebbles, reading their Bibles, journaling, or praying. What a wonderful way to start the day.

Later, the afternoon sun was high overhead. The bay looked like velvet as a ferry churned the water. Soft and cool, it rippled by, hugging the shore . . . seeming to comfort it. And the boat moved on, the same as life always does—no-one seeming to see; no-one seeming to care. All the beauties of God can float by, too, unseen by most. But they are continually there to be noticed and to glorify their Maker.

That evening all were back by the driftwood fire, trying to grasp its warmth. Beside the fire was warmth and comfort, but away from it was nothing but cold loneliness. That's how it is with God. When you are far away from Him, no matter whom you're with, everything seems distant and cold. But when you are near, His love and strength are like warming rays that bring a sense of completeness.

Many people miss these simple things in life. On the beach, by the fire, watching the ferry, God seemed so near . . . but He always is.



photo by Brooke Bauer