

Another Borneo success

by Annalisa Ham

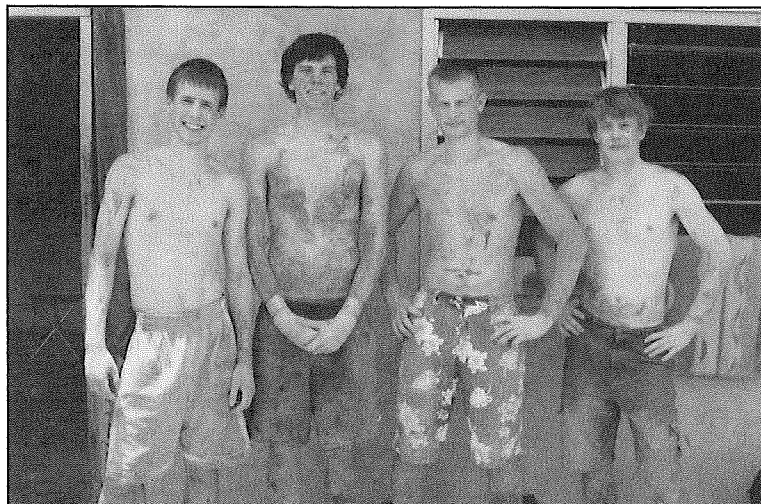
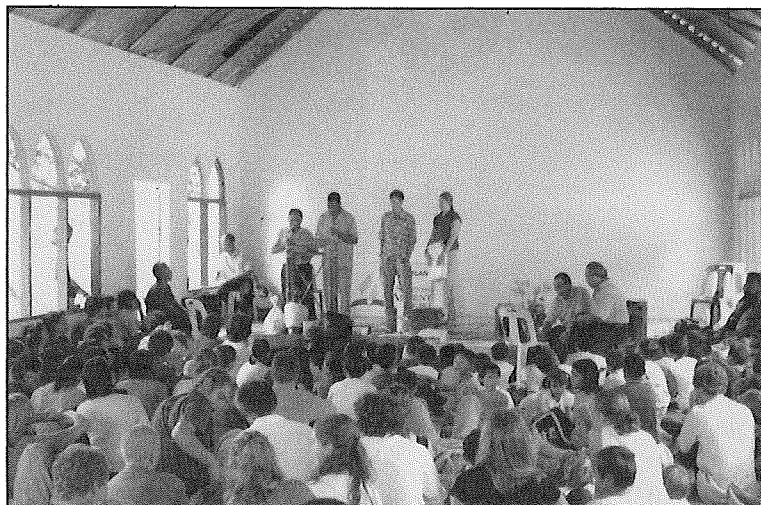
Spring break this year held another successful mission trip to Borneo. Forty-one hard-working students along with twenty non-student and adult participants experienced a two-week journey into Iban culture in Sarawak, Malaysia, on the island of Borneo.

In past years, the mission group has built one church in a village in Sarawak. The major accomplishments of this year's trip was the completion of two churches in the normal five days of brick laying, mixing and pouring concrete, and non-stop sweating.

Primarily living off rice, noodles, and vegetables, these hard-core kids adapted to the culture and interacted with the people of the Epelanjau and Bangkong villages. The native people thoroughly enjoyed teaching the students bits of the Iban language, and students joined in their ball games and fishing outings.

After the work week, everyone enjoyed a few days of relaxation. The group spent a day touring as shopping around the city of Kuching, and spent a day on the beautiful South China Sea beaches and near the jungle waterfalls of Bako National Park.

The group finished their time in Borneo by returning to their finished churches on Sabbath and worshipping with the people they had come to know and appreciate.



An inside view of a newly-built church, and Cody Lonning, Tommy Poole, Kyle Ewert and Marlin Thorman pause briefly for a photograph
Photographs courtesy of Cody Lonning

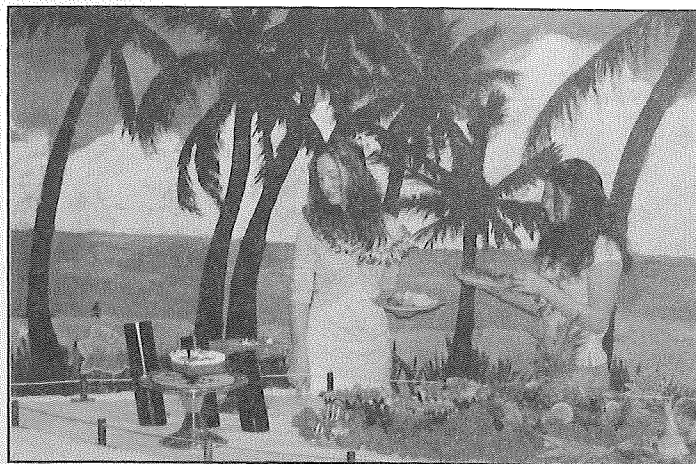
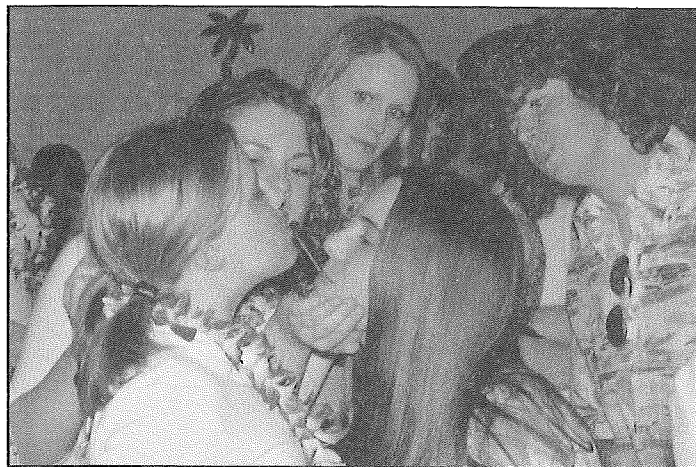
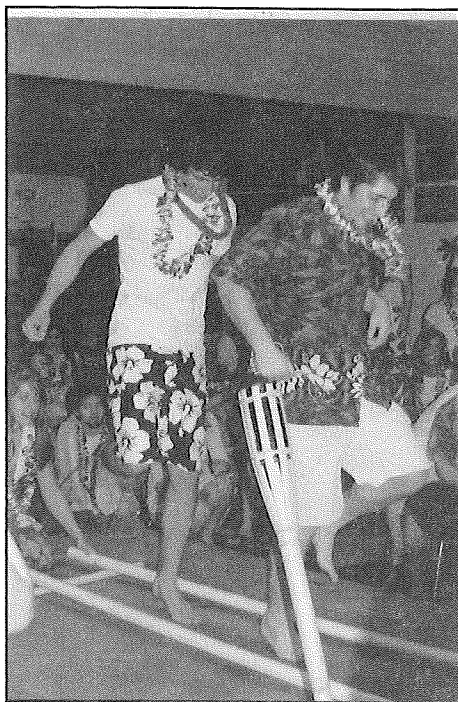
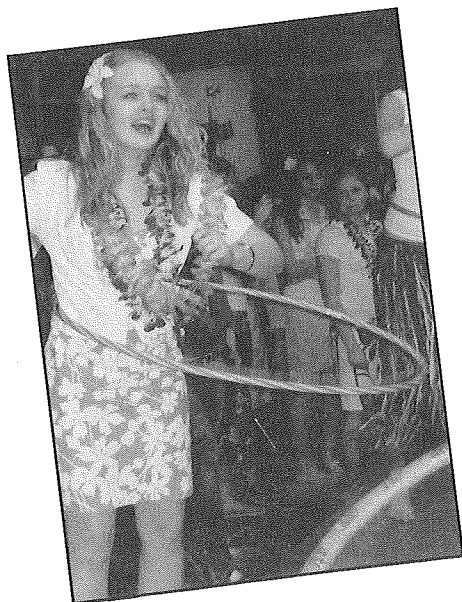
National Honor Society

Membership in the National Honor Society at Upper Columbia Academy is not based solely on g.p.a. It is based on scholarship, leadership, character, and service, the criteria established by the National Honor Society.

Each spring a committee evaluates all sophomore, 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 g.p.a. 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 affect a student's selection to the UCA chapter of 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.



Spring banquet

by Montana Conley

On March 6, 2005, the UCA cafeteria was crowded with students, but something was different. There was a pond where carpet used to be, a cruise ship was sitting in the back, and there was a thatch roofed hut on the side. How did the tropics migrate so far north? It was all for the ASB Spring Banquet. With the relaxing tropical theme, it was hard for the evening to fail.

Because of the money saved by having the banquet on campus, ASB was able to spend more on decorations, food, activities and prizes. The cafeteria was decked out with not only the pond, boat and hut, but tiki torches lined the walkway, leafy trees adorned the stage, and fish nets draped the windows. The background from Senior Recognition was used and beside it was a punch fountain.

The food consisted of rice, curry, shish-kebabs, pies, cakes, and lots of fruit. At the bar there were virgin margaritas and piña coladas for all. On top of the great food there were plenty of activities for those who wanted some action. There were limbo, hula-hooping, and song competitions as well as a traditional game brought all the way from Borneo. And while the Beach Boys played in the background, the prizes—including cash, sodas, and tropical parasols—were handed out to the lucky winners.

There are always mixed opinions about banquets, but the feeling of most was that the casual atmosphere was a welcome change, and that the decorations were fabulous.

Who asks whom?

by Shondene Griswold

Dread and relief went hand in hand as the spring banquet approached: it was the infamous Sadie Hawkins, girls-ask-guys, situation. You would think the switch in responsibility would make it a banquet all guys would love and the girls would hate, and to some extent this was true. Mandy Wilson stated, "I think it's a little tacky. Chivalry must live again. We need to give it a society to thrive in." Andrew Vizcarra said, "It's all right. It takes the pressure off." Some guys think girls should have their turn to be put in the position of vulnerability and face the possibility of a shut down.

But this attitude is not always the case. Some guys would prefer to pick their own date, while some of the girls enjoy the chance to ask. "I had fun with it," remarked Montana Conley, who, with Annalisa Ham, bought an ice cream cake with the question decorated on top. This sat in the committee room waiting for two slightly confused boys (Same Derting and Joe Jenks) to come to a set-up Ad Council and be drilled on what they did wrong.

Many of the invitations this year were quite creative. Jessica Swena sang a song, and Faith Sparrow created a beach in Kris Kostenko's room by dumping in a mound of sand and sticking palm trees into it.

So, as a whole, the banquet gave the guys a break from straining to think of creative ways to ask, and gave the girls a chance to have a little fun.

Seniors Recognized

by Krystal Blair

Senior Recognition Weekend holds irresistible attractions for both parents and students.

For the senior parent, the weekend is an absolute must-see. Although it is a bit ironic that parents would not come to be close to their children. Instead, they come to watch from a safe photographic distance. For parents it is the harbinger of the change and separation graduation symbolizes.

The weekend is less poignant for the senior student. For the UCA senior, the weekend is good preparation time. Basically, the seniors get a chance to practice marching up and down the aisle in a relatively unembarrassing atmosphere. If they trip on the last stair coming off the stage or doze off when they're supposed to be receiving their Bible, it really isn't sooo bad—only the adoring parents are watching.

The two main meetings of the weekend, Consecration and church, serve as marching practice but also provide a time to improve theatrical abilities. By the end of the meetings, the astute senior will be able to move smoothly between rapturous fascination, solemnity, gracious acceptance, and gleeful bliss.

All around, the weekend serves all parties well. Parents get to be parents, and seniors—well—they feel more prepared and important.

Seniors show talent once again

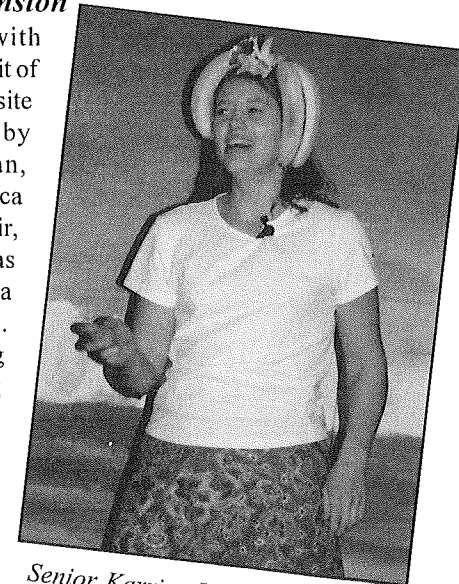
by Jennifer Johnston

Complete with hammock and portrait of "Wilson," an exquisite backdrop painted by Tim Workman, Stephanie Kay, Jessica Bryan, Krystal Blair, and Armando Rosas set the mood for a tropical paradise. Very specific lighting and props planning done during dress rehearsal successfully reduced much of the stress of technical confusion. The few reported glitches were really only noticed by the artistes. Back-stage adjustments prevented any wardrobe malfunctions, and certainly plenty of other preparations were made to guarantee an outstanding program—the 2005 Senior Talent Show.

The evening was filled with harmonious and melodic vocals, spectacular instrumentals, comical commercials, and a skit, "Argument Clinic." Sitting in the audience, one would hear such commendations as "There is so much talent in this class." All, indeed, were amazed as they witnessed hidden and well-known abilities. Creatively edited song lyrics and added verses caught almost everyone's attention, and the MC's, Coach Soulé and Tommy Poole, received many laughs between the numbers as they allowed time for stagehands to set up for each performance. About half a dozen times, these people in black smoothly and quickly rolled the grand piano on and off stage, setting up music stands and microphones as they hustled about.

A silent auction bake sale run by Mrs. Cheryl Wallace took place during the intermission. Beautiful and tasty cakes, cookies, pies, and other sugary treats were sold as well as fresh fruit and other items. All of the profits and expense have not yet been calculated, but Mr Blankenship gave a rough estimate of \$1500 made through the bake sale and reserved seating.

No matter how much money was made, the event was definitely a success.

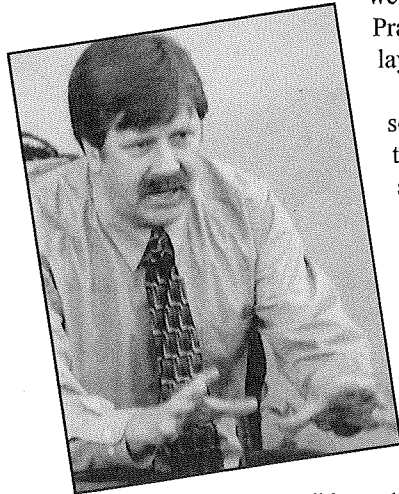


Senior Karrisa Kravig helps continue the tradition of grace and dignity during the talent show
Photo by Michael Steingas

Spring Week of Prayer

by Chelsea Moore

Pastor Ron Halvorsen Jr. arrived on campus a few weeks ago for spring Week of Prayer. Little did we know what lay in store.



He began each talk with several short stories that left the crowd in absolute stitches. We couldn't believe just how a man could take such minute memories and create winding tales of such gargantuan proportions. He was a most engaging speaker. He kept the audience's attention as he described his most intense phobias, his sister

"the troll," and his near disasters with girls. It was refreshing, enjoyable and had results.

From Pastor Ron's one week with us, over 30 students made their decisions to study for baptism. And it keeps getting better! Around 230 made a decision to continue to commit or recommit their lives to Christ.

Pastor Ron was also really enjoyable to spend time with outside the meetings. He was very honest and open and definitely left a positive impression on campus. The impact will last. For some that will mean a lifetime's worth of changes from one critical decision.

Homeleave syndrome strikes campus

by Dustin Kelley

Homeleave Syndrome. It's a disease that strikes many here on campus immediately following a homeleave. The symptoms include loss of attention span, sleeping through class, and the extreme desire not to get up in the morning.

Homeleave is expected to refresh the students, but on many an occasion, students stay up late and don't get more sleep. Students enjoy the free time in the "real world" during homeleave and sometimes lose sight of their goal for sleep and lots of it. Instead, they fill their time with movies, television, books, or just plain being sociable with family and friends.

So, in turn, students return from homeleave to their classes sleepy and dazed. Many students experience a lack of energy and henceforth classes are not necessarily the most exciting on that day. "I was dead tired," said Todd Purkey. "Classes seemed boring and unnecessary."

Homeleaves are intended to be a helpful recovery period, but it seems that not much is being done in the sleep department during homeleave. That's unlikely to change, so students will probably keep returning from homeleave in a tired daze.

It all adds up

by Faith Sparrow

Everyday the students of Upper Columbia Academy go to the cafeteria to fill their empty stomachs with delicious nutrients. Everyday the cafeteria serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. But who stops to think about how many meals the cafeteria workers have to make in one year, or how much money is used just for you?

In 2004, the Upper Columbia Academy cafeteria served 133,000 meals. That means students that worked in the cafeteria last year, combined, worked 12,000 hours. That is equivalent to 500 days. That is a lot of time to be spending on others.

Not only does the cafeteria require a lot of time and dedicated people, it also requires money. \$300,000 was used to purchase food and supplies during the 2004 school year. "If we could save 10 cents per meal--the equivalent of 1/2 a pop tart, one unbaked cookie, one cup of milk, or one baked potato--we would be able to buy a student here at UCA a new Porsche for graduation.," said Pete Blankenship, director of foods and nutrition.

So next time you enter the cafeteria, try to remember all the hours and money that are put into each individual here on campus.

Computers cost money?

by Ian Holm

\$44,100 may seem like a lot of money to some people, but to Mr. Davis, head of the computer support department, it's not. The budget for the computer support department is just enough for them to be able to pay their expenses. One might think that there can't be that many expenses, but the reality is that every year Computer Support pays over \$2,000 for anti-virus software, \$7,000 for renewing bulk licenses, and another \$1,400 a month for the T1 internet line. That's \$1,400 a month for the internet alone. Mr. Davis states that as time goes on their software and hardware isn't adequate to accomplish their jobs. Since they only have enough money to cover expenses they have nothing left over to upgrade their hardware. Sooner or later, something will need to change.

There is a wide variety of things that need improvement. Among these are new hubs for the dorms and new servers. The current hubs in the guys' dorm continually overheat and shut down. If this happens in the evening, students in the dorm do not have the internet to get their school work done. As well, nine new servers are needed. There are currently eight servers and the Computer Support department needs one more for e-mail. These are just a few of the areas that are in dire need of improvement.

It seems at times the computers and internet at school are taken for granted. People don't understand how much it costs to maintain, repair, and upgrade an entire campus worth of computers. Hopefully, the Computer Support department will be able to keep up with technological advances and continue to function efficiently.

Don't believe your ears

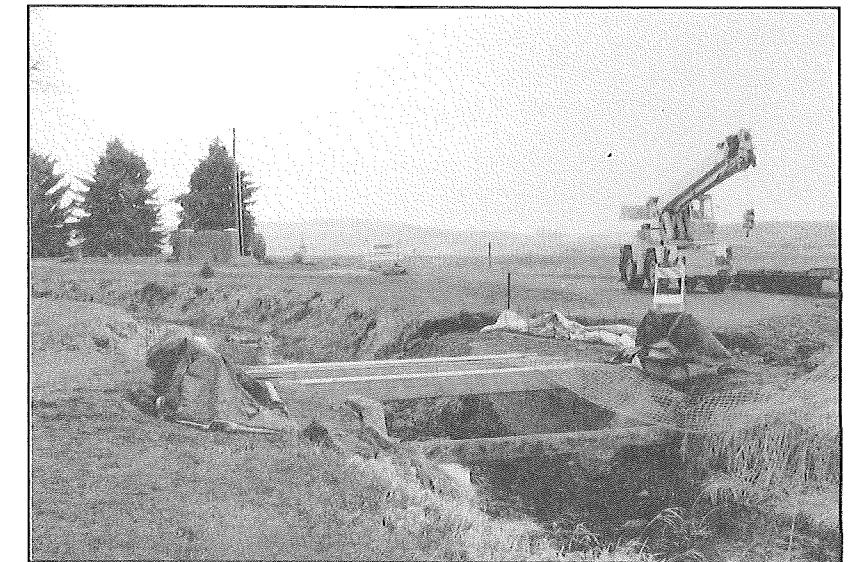
by Annalisa Ham

I overheard a senior girl on the phone a few weeks ago saying, "I don't want to pressure you into marrying me. We can just have kids if you want." In any other circumstance or at any other time, I would have been startled beyond all reason. But in this case, I was able to fill in the gaps of information for myself.

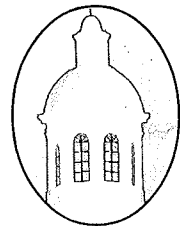
Mr. Janke assigned Senior bible projects two weeks before Senior Recognition weekend. These are the infamous projects that gain seniors insight into the road to marriage and parenting while requiring them to perform almost ridiculous tasks. Options this year were the wedding project, pregnancy project, baby project, and, for the most studious, the retirement project.

While a vast majority of the senior class paired up and planned their weddings, some chose to be pregnant. I would like to have seen Coach Soule's face when one of his gymnastics girls told him, "I don't think I'll get pregnant before the weekend. I think I'll wait until Sunday." Donning their 10-pound rice or lentil bellies, they trudged around for a full five days, night and day, and received many questioning, sympathetic, and sometimes even downright nasty looks.

Other seniors paired off or remained single and took on childcare responsibilities. Having as many as four newborns, paranoid seniors diligently protected their young from prowling egg-nappers and pranksters. Some were so concerned with the well being of their children that they sealed them into plastic containers with towels and duct tape. However, even the most attentive parent can't help freak accidents from happening. Hearing that broken eggs (dead children) could drastically affect a student's grade, one student argued with Janke, saying, "Your kid might die in a car accident, that doesn't make you a bad parent." "Yes," Janke replied, "but it is still your problem." He required those accident-prone parents to plan funeral services for unfortunate egg-children.



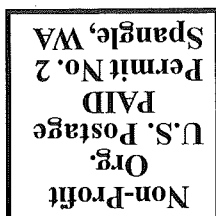
For several weeks there was no bridge across the stream behind the cafeteria. The old bridge with its wood supports could no longer handle heavy vehicles and was removed. Now a new all-cement bridge is in place.



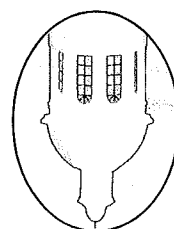
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Someone to lean on

by Michelle Jahn

In this world several things are unknown. Unexplainable events happen each day. Life goes on and problems still arise, and many people wonder if there is any reason for living.

In Psalm 68:13, it says, "Even while you sleep among the campfires, the winds of [my] dove are sheathed with silver, its feathers with shining gold." Hectic times come and go and God promises to be there for us to lean on. Often He uses other people to show us that He cares and other times He may speak through the beauty of His creation, music, or His word. He never leaves us hanging.

Sometimes a friendly smile or a pat on the back can make the difference in someone's life. Using opportunities to show someone that you care can give them something to hold onto while trying to cope with struggles they face. Jesus used everyday tasks to speak to people's hearts and give them encouragement. He is the way, the truth, and the life. Hang in there!



Somebody has to work the desk during the Spring Banquet and other festive events. Here, Sarah Evans enjoys the company of telephones and vacuum cleaners at the girls' dorm front desk while other students frolic in the cafeteria.