



The Climb

by Kiara Welch,
President, Class of 2017

There once was a mountain climber named Sarah. Sarah had been climbing for 12 years. She started with little hills, then big hills, then small mountains, then big mountains. Finally, all Sarah had left to climb was Mt. Everest. And so, she began her climb. Every day she climbed, it steadily got harder. The oxygen started thinning and her body got tired. Sarah reached the last camp and spent the night. Morning came – beautiful and clear. She could see the peak from camp. She packed up and started climbing. However, she was not hiking towards the peak. Sarah was heading back home. She did not feel like finishing the climb.

Sarah had done so much work to be able to climb to the peak of Mt. Everest, but when put to the challenge and with the goal in sight, she gave up. School can feel a lot like climbing Mt. Everest. By the end of the year, your determination is thinning and it is getting hard to find motivation. Just remember that you have worked so hard to get here. The goal is just over the next rise. Why give up now?

CLASS of 2017

AIM

I know not what the future holds,
but I know Who holds the future.

TEXT

The Lord is the One going before you;
He Himself will be with you;
He will not fail you nor forsake you.
Do not fear; do not be afraid.

Deuteronomy 31:8

COLORS

Black, wine, and silver

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Exciting changes

by Caleb Nelson

Perhaps you have heard the rumors of some exciting changes coming to this school next year. One such change is the class schedule. There will be an exciting new French class, and another welcome change is first period moving to 7:35 a.m., allowing students to get a few extra minutes of rest! Music classes such as band, choir, octet, and Choraliers will now be right before and after lunch.

According to Dean Hess, the boys' dorm will also be undergoing some drastic changes. Roughly \$1.7 million will be spent on some much needed renovation. The current goal is to gut and redo all the dorm rooms on first floor, third floor, and fourth floor. This equates to 55 rooms. The bathrooms on third and fourth will also be redone, and if time allows, the halls should also be receiving new carpet and paint. If all goes well, this amazing project should be done by August 11 before school starts this next year! The school also plans to redo both the first and second bathrooms during the following school year.

I'm sure you'll be looking forward to this next school year with all these wonderful new changes!



Broken busses, forgotten homes

by Thomas Warren

The San Juan Islands in Washington State's Puget Sound are one of the most beautiful places in the world—except when it is raining. But luckily for this year's marine biology trip, the blue sky decided to hold her tears, so this year's students experienced a myriad of fascinating events.

The trip began with an over four-hour delay at a truck stop and shop outside Airway Heights. The reason? Bus issues of course. But after much work, some miraculous parts deliveries, and hardworking students, everyone was ready to go.

We arrived at Walla Walla University's Marine Station on Rosario Beach around eleven Sunday night. Much hasty unpacking ensued, and by twelve-thirty, we were in our cabins pretending to sleep. The next two days brought such a flurry of activity that sometimes students were not sure what day it was, whether they were on home leave, or when the weekend was going to come. Activities included sitting on the beach around a fire with pastor Fred, dissecting crayfish, visiting a whale museum and its lighthouse outpost, and hiking to Deception Pass. Tide-pooling was a highlight of the trip as was a beautiful bioluminescent show put on by Mother Nature late at night under the docks. For some students the ferry rides were a new experience and activities on them included meeting up with parents, dancing lessons, and playing hedgehog, a newly invented game to amuse bored students.

Wednesday morning dawned gray and cold. An outbreak of tears from the sky convinced everyone that while it was sad to leave, we had to leave before we became permanently attached to this place that felt so much like home. For consolation, after a brief stint at the Seattle Aquarium, we enjoyed an hour long mosey through Seattle's Pike Place Market.

Marine Biology trip taught us a lot of things about sea life and its immense diversity, but most of all it taught us about the amazing creativity of our God.



Mr. Winslow shares a few heartfelt words

Appreciation

by Elianna Srikureja

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, was a day of some sadness but much love. During lunch, the students and staff celebrated the service of Mr. Winslow and his family to the UCA campus and to the students themselves.

The announcement of the party was made in morning Bible classes – to go directly to the café after morning classes and to keep the party a secret so that Mr. Winslow wouldn't suspect. The students eagerly agreed and were exceedingly happy to learn that the afternoon classes would be cut short – to Wednesday schedule – to account for the longer lunch period. As the students arrived and searched for empty chairs, the announcement was made that Mr. Winslow was on his way.

Applause and cheers filled the cafeteria as Mr. Winslow entered, with tears in his eyes, and made his way the front. A slideshow, showcasing pictures and memories of Mr. Winslow and his family was playing on the screen. After a few announcements were made and the blessing was said, tables were dismissed to the lunch line and an amazing meal, skillfully prepared, of spaghetti and salad with cheesecake for dessert was soon being eaten.

During the meal, students and staff went forward to share their favorite memories of our beloved principal. Then a prayer was given for guidance and safety. We will all miss Mr. Winslow and his family, and our appreciation of their service to us is unlimited.

Bloomsday report

by Ellie Bunn

Sunday, May 7, was a gorgeous day for the 41st annual Lilac Bloomsday Run. Over 38,000 people came out to join in the fun and run the 12 kilometer (7.46 mile) course. The race began at 9:00 a.m. with the elite runners leading the pack. The course started and ended in downtown Spokane with a few minor changes from years past due to construction at Riverfront Park.

Race day started a little cloudy with a few rain drips, but as the morning progressed, the sun came out and made it perfect running weather. The course has many ups and downs, including the famous Doomsday Hill, which has a 120-foot elevation gain from the bridge where it starts to the top where there is always a vulture mascot giving runners encouragement. The hill has an average uphill grade of 6.5% and makes many runners slow to a walk.

There were quite a few UCA students who participated in the race and enjoyed all the support from spectators along the course. They also thought it was neat that there were many firefighters, medics, and first responders out to help those who had injuries or felt sick. The students, as well as the other runners, enjoyed the various music groups along the course. One of the bands, Salt, is a Christian music group, and even though they aren't well known, they were still popular.

Overall, it was a great race for everyone. Maybe next year the school can provide training and transportation so more people from UCA can participate in this wonderful event.



Maytime mashing

by Jonathan Terry

We have spent the latter part of the winter and spring indoors, miserable and cold with nothing to do except for meaningless activities such as putting off homework and playing music. Now, since the May weather has come around, people seem to be gravitating toward the outside world, especially the softball field. Coach Gettys, along with the rest of the PE staff, have been hard at work to make the field better, and it shows: less grass on the infield, painted foul lines, and a home-run fence.

It seems as if there is a constant ping of the bat going on during rec time—much to the dismay of those in Choraliers, itching to get outside. There are times where it is a free-for-all, but there's also intramurals going on for those who prefer a controlled softball environment. Everyone enjoys playing softball for one reason or another, whether it's playing first base, pitching, or in the words of Stephen Wilkinson, "Mashing it to centerfield where no one is so I can totally score super easily."

The games don't just attract the players, though. Most of the time, the biggest group of people out there is the fans, either cheering the players on or just socializing and enjoying the sun. So whether you enjoy "mashing the ball" or just being out there having time with friends, come on up to the field and soak in the sun and a little springtime softball.

Where the focus is

by Maddy Clark

Gymnastics tour is a time well known for pure exhaustion and many shows. Numerous people leave school to do one of the things they absolutely love. However, this tour seemed to be a little different than most.

Typically on a gymnastics tour, you go around and perform for kids at lots of different schools so that, maybe, they will want to be in gymnastics later—maybe even at UCA. But this tour seemed to be a little different with its focus always on God. We were not trying to bring students to our school or to show off our cool gymnastics moves. Instead, we tried to show them just a little bit of God and to make them feel happy, loved and important.

We went into the audience to meet all of the kids, giving them high fives and learning their names. Constant smiles were everywhere. God's love was definitely in the room. Constant miracles from God and reassurances of His presence were there. Countless people from the team and from the audience were brought closer to God and to each other. The focus was always on God. In fact, not one of the performances was done by the team. All were done by God, working through the team, His angels holding us up.

It's time

by Charles Buursma

You can waste it, make money from it, or relax with it, but you can't stop it. Time waits for no one. It seems to be endless at first; then you realize that it's not. Well in a sense it is, but just not for you or me. We each have been given just a little bit of time to make a difference in this world. It's a gift to be used wisely. You'll find that when time is used for selfish reasons, darkness and despair tend to creep into your heart, but when used for selfless reasons, then and only then joy is experienced to the fullest.

Oh how I wish I had not wasted so many hours watching T.V. and instead had helped many more individuals. Oh how I wish I had shown them more of God's love, but no matter how much I wish I had used my time in the past more wisely, I'll still never get it back.

So now it's time to make the choice to live life now. Live with the hope for tomorrow's adventures, but be prepared for today's end. It's time!

We can be thankful

by Jordan Judge

As the school year comes to a close, it is a good time to remember all of the things we can be thankful for.

We can be thankful, first and foremost, for God. He has been here all along, helping and guiding us this past year. Without Him, we would be lost and have no reason to live. On the same note, we can be thankful for Jesus. Because of His unconditional love and His death on the cross, we can live forever in heaven. We can also be thankful for the Holy Spirit. He is our "comforter" and his presence helps draw people to Jesus and God.

We can be thankful for food and water and for life. Many times we take these things for granted. Life has been granted to us by God, and by Him all things exist and have their being. Food and water are essential to life but many people in other parts of the world have little of either. We can be thankful for food, yes, even cafeteria food.

We can thank God for a God-filled campus and teachers that love God and want to serve Him. Many people don't have that in public schools. But we do, and we are truly blessed.

One of the biggest things we can be thankful for is friends here at school. The friends that you make have a huge impact on your life. They can either change you for the better, or change you for the worse. But having good friends is a huge blessing and it should be something that you thank God for every day.

These are just a few things we can be thankful for. As the year speeds to a close, let's not forget the blessings that we have been given this year, and let us look for ways to be a blessing to others. Whether it's a smile, a "hello," or even just asking "How are you?" let's look to be uplifting and encouraging to others and to count our blessings.



UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY ECHOES

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This issue's contributors included:

Kiara Welch, Caleb Nelson, Thomas Warren, Elianna Srikureja,
Ellie Bunn, Jonathan Terry, Maddy Clark, Charles Buursma,
Jordan Judge, Serina Thomson, Rachelle Santee, Natalie Levin,
Kari Rose, Andrew Robinson, Elizabeth Neacsu, Melissa Conradt,
Hailee Huenergardt, Adreana Ward, Grady Dietrich,
and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

Here comes the sun

by Maddy Clark

Rain is thrashing everywhere. A chill fills the air. Winds gust by bringing goosebumps to the arms of the students who are walking briskly to their first class. The cold has come so far into the year and refuses to leave and allow the warm weather to enter. However, today is different. As soon as the students crawl out of bed, they know that today is going to be a very different kind of day.

The sun creeps into the windows of heavy-eyed students as they wake to the warm bright sensation of the sun. They walk outside in t-shirts and shorts. For once, it is too hot for long sleeves, jackets and jeans. You can feel the sun seeping into your skin as you walk from class to class. Students run around outside playing all of their favorite sports, reading books, or taking photos in the beautiful weather. They soak up the sun that has finally decided to come out. Softball games are played on the field. Runners soak up the sun while running around the loop, students pass a football on front campus, and hammocks are strung up on the trees. Everyone is taking advantage of this amazing opportunity to feel the happiness of the outdoors. A complete contentment fills the air of the UCA campus. This sunlight has been long awaited by the students. Finally, it is here.

The power of a little bit of sunshine is indescribable. With the sunshine has come beautiful smiling faces, laughter and friendship. The cold weather may have finally decided to leave and allow the sun to say hello, encouraging the summer that is only weeks from our grasp. So go outside and feel the warmth. Here comes the sun!



Growth

by Serina Thomson

As the gymnastics and music groups embarked on their journeys, there were the select few that got to enjoy staying on campus for the end of the week and into the weekend. It is not worth it to do regular classes for those couple of days since so many students are gone and would just get behind. So, instead of doing normal schoolwork, we would all begin a journey towards growth together.

The great part of this experience was that everybody got to sleep in because breakfast was not until 10:00 a.m. After breakfast, everybody went to the gym to begin the growing adventure. Worship was split into three different groups. You could choose which group you thought would be the best for you. In the end, everybody got together to talk about what they had learned and how they could grow in their spiritual lives. Then it was time for the activities that everybody would be participating in for the next two days.

There were many different types of activities including baking, design, science, woods, metalwork, art, and media. The point of these activities was to learn purely from experiencing. There were no tests or quizzes. No textbooks were involved or stress attached. It was just supposed to be a fun two days of learning how to grow with each other in what you were doing.

Like in every activity, some people enjoyed it and learned a lot and others did not, but overall it was a success. At the end, everybody got together to see the videos that the media group had put together for every activity. People laughed as they saw goofy pictures of their friends or themselves. It was a great way to tie the two days together. Everybody also got to show off what they had created. (The baking class showed off their brownies by letting everybody eat them.) It was a great activity and a fun way to grow together.



The power of prayer

by Rachelle Santee

We tell people to pray about their problems when we don't have an answer. We have Week of Prayer and prayer groups, and we pray before meals. Do our prayers really make a difference? Sometimes do we pray just because everyone else does it or because it has become a habit? Is there truly power behind the prayers we say?

Let's start by discovering what prayer is. Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as described in Steps to Christ. Prayer lifts us up to God instead of lowering Him to our level. God is the only being in the universe that can understand our words when our lips are closed. He knows exactly what we are going to ask for before we even ask. The Bible is one way God speaks to us, but prayer is our way to talk to Him. Prayer is texting God without the need of a cellphone because He reads the messages straight from our hearts. Prayer isn't for God to know what we need, it's for us to realize we need God.

Prayer and UCA should be best friends because you can't have a Christian school without communication with God. There are many prayers said each day during class worships, dorm worships, and prayer on the plaza; but there is nothing like a personal prayer between you and God. The Bible also talks about how we should pray continually. That doesn't mean we are speaking all day but that our hearts are calling out to God 24/7. If all of us were constantly communicating with God think of the difference it would make.

How do we pray? The Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13 is the best example. Through this prayer we realize we can't do anything on our own. It's by God's grace that we can resist evil, get our daily bread, and be forgiven. When we pray in Jesus' name, amazing things can and will happen if we only have the faith the size of a mustard seed.

Through all of this, we can see that prayer is powerful because we pray to a powerful God, a loving God that cares even for the smallest of sparrows. It is through prayer that we see our need for a Savior. Through prayer, we are able to conquer mountains. If Jesus spent nights praying on this earth, how much more should we also pray? Let us encourage one another to pray and pray for each other in the process. Prayer is powerful!

Easter egg hunt

by *Natalie Levin*

The day before Easter, April 15, 2017, the dorms had an exciting evening activity. Right after sundown meditation, the deans went through their usual announcements. They spoke of how Week of Prayer was coming up, and how we needed to get used to the different schedule. Then, something unusual happened. "Oh and girls, tonight there is a GLOW IN THE DARK EASTER EGG HUNT!" Dean Danae exclaimed. All the girls were delighted and begged for more information about this hunt. "The eggs are hidden throughout the campus and glow in the dark," Dean Danae explained. "The eggs are fair game to anyone who finds them and there are various prizes such as candy and quarters, and one egg has a grand prize of \$10:00 gift-card to Taco Bell." At 8:00 p.m. crowds of students gathered at the flagpole, ready to begin. The students analyzed each other to see who were threats in getting their prized eggs. "Ready, set, GO!" Dean Danae shouted, and everyone dashed off to look.

After 20 minutes, almost all the eggs had been found, and the students began to wander back to their dorm rooms. It was the end to a great Saturday.

College decisions

by *Andrew Robinson*

There are many reasons why choosing the right college is difficult. To start, there is always peer pressure. This pressure most often comes from friends wanting you to go to the same school or from family members hoping you will go to a school nearby. In addition, it's hard for students to know exactly what each college has to offer. Some colleges are very focused on academics while others are more tightly focused on athletics, music, or spirituality.

Another factor is finances. Colleges have different tuition rates and expenses. They also award different scholarships, and the amounts do vary. Knowing which colleges are affordable is vital.

Finally, what is probably the hardest part of the decision is knowing which college will best help you meet your life goals. This is difficult because many students don't know exactly what they want to do with their lives. However, not knowing exactly what to do isn't necessarily a bad thing. That's what college is for! Going to college will help students find out who they truly are.

Music adventures

By *Kari Rose*

UCA music adventures! Well, I am talking about music tours. But wow, are they adventures! We get to go on music tours several times throughout the school year. Usually, it's band, orchestra, and Choraliers who get to go. That's a lot of people, so we usually take two buses that are almost full. Sometimes the farthest away we drive is four hours, and other times it's eight hours. Yikes! That is a long bus ride. If it's the eight-hour drive, it's good to have a bus buddy; otherwise, the trip can get . . . interesting.

We usually play at two or three schools, and then at a church for vespers on Friday night, and then at a different church for Sabbath morning. Sometimes we sleep on gym floors during the nights, but often the church members will take the groups, dividing us among several homes. It's nice to stay in a house, and if you're lucky, you'll get a comfortable bed! Most of the time we get an amazing breakfast too! A delicious breakfast always hits the spot on a music tour.

I could go into a lot more detail, but music tours truly are adventures!

UCA takes music to Oregon

by *Ellie Bunn*

April 12-16, multiple music groups from Upper Columbia Academy toured the greater Portland area. The groups included were Choraliers, Octet, Band, Brass Quintet, and Orchestra. The tour started in Yakima and then headed to Tillamook, OR, then on to Tualatin, and, finally ended with a concert in Pleasant Hill, at Emerald Junior Academy. During most of the stops, Upper Columbia Academy provided the whole program or church service. This included a full array of music and stories from the spring break Africa mission trip and even some Reformation history from Mr. Kravig. The audiences at each stop were thrilled to hear the music and very appreciative. Some even opened their homes to feed and house the music students.

The tour bus ride was long, but students entertained themselves by listening to music, napping, and having good conversation. Nights were spent mostly on school gym floors, which provided many camping-like conditions and very little sleep. Stops were also made in Oceanside, OR for a walk on the beach and swimming for the brave ones, and the Tillamook Cheese Factory for ice cream, cheese tasting, and a visit to the museum. The group returned Sunday night safe and sound, and all had overall fun times.



Got mosquitoes?

by *Elizabeth Neacsu*

Can somebody please tell me why mosquitoes were put on the face of this earth? I really cannot seem to understand their purpose. What good can come from these creatures that suck the life out of humans? Why, when the weather is beautiful enough to enjoy activities like tennis, football, golf, fighting mice in the ball shed, riding horses, and softball, do you get eaten alive? It seems that no matter how much effort you put into squashing these creatures, there are hundreds more that sneak up on you when you're not looking. You might think that wearing long pants and a long-sleeve shirt can solve this problem. Unfortunately, the mosquitoes at UCA are desperate enough to be able to find a way to get inside your clothing and stay there until you've lost a good amount of your blood.

Looking past all the insects that are trying to eat us alive, we must admit the weather at UCA has been phenomenal. The snow has all melted and the sun has finally decided to join us again. The students have come out of hibernation and are finally going on walks again, enjoying the late afternoons, where the sunshine is still peeking through the clouds. Despite all the animals that come out during summer time, everyone seems to be in a happier lively mood when the sun is out. Let's enjoy it and soak up all the sun while we can before we have to go back into hibernation for the winter.

Abandoned and all alone

by *Hailee Huenergardt*

It was a cold, dreary, October morning. Shortly after arriving on campus I overheard several students asking if others had seen the adorable kittens behind the cafe, abandoned and all alone.

I've always had a soft spot when it comes to the face of any tiny creature, so I and several others tip-toed back behind the cafe and got a glimpse of four sweet little balls of fluff. They were so scared as they huddled wide eyed and motionless under the heating unit. We made several attempts to catch these sweet siblings and ended up with nothing but frustration. Why didn't they just run to us? We were there to save them. We didn't want to harm them but they didn't realize that. I'm sure Jesus feels that same way with us. He wants to save us and give us love, healing, and life. We often run from Him and try to save ourselves. He longs for us just to run to Him.

Catching these wild, abandoned, kittens just wasn't going to happen. I remember sitting in classes all afternoon not being able to get those fluffy faces off my mind. They had won my heart and I hadn't even held them yet. I drove home that night and just couldn't imagine them spending another night outside in the cold. I had to go back and try to catch them or, at the very least, leave food and a blanket.

Operation Kitten Catch was about to take place. It was late in the morning on a Thursday. Jared Wallen, Kurt Soloniuk and I spent two hours and finally caught one. The sweetest little calico kitten was finally safe. Mrs. Castrejon graciously allowed us to keep the kitten in her classroom for the rest of the day. Now we just had to complete our mission and catch the other three.

Waiting until the end of the school day almost seemed impossible, but the last class ended, and I was finally able to try to catch the other three kittens. Jared Wallen, Michael Cottrell and I were back at it again. Jared finally caught the cutest little white, blue-eyed kitty. He was hissing and completely scared of human touch. Both kittens were reunited in Mrs. C's room, and by now, the word had gotten out and spread all over campus. Many students came by to see and hold the saved kittens.

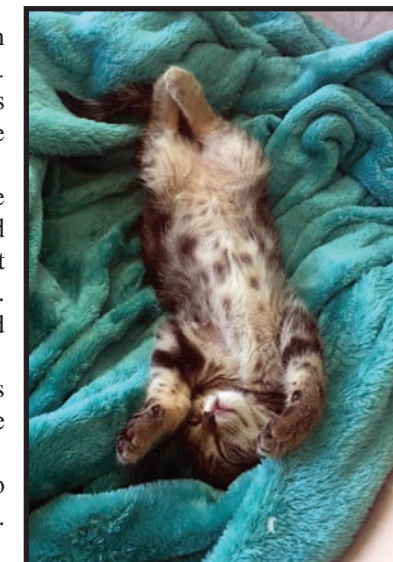
The two kittens are no longer abandoned. They have a forever home. Louis and Vuitton are full of personality. They fill my heart with joy and I can't imagine life without them.

Just as I have offered these kittens a home, Jesus offers that same thing to each one of us. We will never be abandoned and alone if we allow Him into our hearts. We might feel abandoned, but with Jesus we will never be ALONE.

'Tis the season

by *Melissa Conradt*

It is that time of the year where every senior girl is wondering what dress they are going to wear for graduation. Choosing a dress for anything can be very stressful, but especially for something like this! It has to look nice, be the right color, and be in dress code. One thing that makes grad dress shopping slightly easier is that the dress code is a little bit more relaxed. You have to either make time to go shop in town, or keep ordering dresses and return the ones that don't work. As it gets closer to graduation day, more and more packages come in the mail with dresses that may or may not be the lucky winner. Best of luck to all the senior girls on the search for the perfect dress.



Graduation

by *Serina Thomson*

Graduation is fast approaching. The days are flying past and before you know it, high school is going to be over. For the seniors, graduation is only a couple of sweet days away. You can feel the excitement in the hallways. A new adventure is just around the corner.

Graduation can be a bittersweet experience. The seniors have suffered through four years of high school and the idea of not having to come back after summer can be exhilarating although there are many wonderful memories wrapped up in the high school years. Adults often say that high school was the best years of their lives. There also can be a lot of pressure on the graduates. For many, having to choose their life career can be a daunting and scary task. There is uncertainty in the future for the graduates. Nobody really knows how their lives will go and if their plans will go the way they want.

Graduation will be filled with tears and joy. The graduates will be remembering all of the amazing times they had along with the struggles of high school. Graduation is the gateway to the future. Congratulations to all of the seniors who have stuck through until the end. You deserve all the good that life has to offer. Remember these times when life gets rough and one day the graduation class will meet again.

Tulipa

by *Adreana Ward*

Tulips are a genus of herbaceous, perennial, bulbous plants in the lily family. That's science talk for a non-wooded flower that lives for more than two years.

These flowers heavily populate our campus, along with most steppe and Mediterranean areas. Originating from Persia and Turkey, they were brought to Europe in the 16th century where their popularity grew so great that the bulbs became rather expensive. Tulips are also popular in literature, being the object of works such as *Gulistan* and *The Black Tulip*.

It doesn't take much for the heart to appreciate the vibrant colors and soft physique that these flowers give us every day. We are blessed simply by their existence.



Missed by *that much*

by *Grady Dietrich*

You may know that over spring break a group travelled to Africa on a mission trip. We did all of our work in Kenya, staying at the Maasai Development Project compound.

A commonly-known fact about Africa is that it is infamous for snakes. It houses some of the most poisonous snakes in the world including the black mamba, viper, cobra, echis, and eastern green mamba. One bite from these snakes and you are likely going to die. This is why even the local residents stay as far away from these snakes as possible. One of the deadlier ones is the black mamba. This snake is very aggressive and if provoked will chase you down and keep striking you until you are dead.

One night my dad and I were out walking from the cook's kitchen back to the dining area. My dad was in the lead and was the only one with a light. He was walking, and out of the corner of my eye, I saw a dark stick on the ground. Being without a light, I yelled, "Dad there is a snake on the ground!" He whirled around and shone the light on the snake. As soon as it was spotted, the locals from the kitchen building came out and started hitting it with a crowbar and a huge stick. After it was dead, we learned that we walked about two feet from a black mamba. It was a miracle that we had not stepped on it. I will always thank God that we evaded death that day.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2017