



## Winter Banquet sets sail

by Faith Workman

The week after Thanksgiving break, students eagerly waited for Sunday, the day of the Winter Banquet, the first banquet of the year. The theme was a cruise on the "SS Wheatland," and the event was organized and hosted by the girls' club.

Girls worked to modify their new dresses to pass the dress check, and boys scoured the internet for the best puns to include in their invitations to the event. Some friends decided to go as groups and even officially asked each other just for the fun of it. Everyone signed up for tables that seated from eight to twelve people.

The day of the banquet that had been looked forward to by many (and dreaded by some), everyone loaded on to the buses to go to their chosen activities. This year, ice-skating, bowling, and the Nutcracker Ballet were the choices. Four stayed behind to watch a movie in the girls' dorm lobby.

In the hours leading up to the banquet, girls did each other's hair and make-up, and boys (perhaps) checked to make sure their dress attire was wrinkle free. Before everyone joined in the cafeteria for the meal, boys walked over to the dorm to pick up their dates and exchange boutonnieres and corsages.

After all the preparation for the big event, the "SS Wheatland" set sail for a night of fun and new memories.



## A season of gratefulness

by Joelle Townsend

These days, most kids are anticipating the Christmas season with November having proved to be dreary, cloudy and tiring. However, the best is yet to come. I think that it is important to remember during this time of year to be grateful.

Several students have been inspired by Mrs. C's days of gratefulness. Each day, she posts something that she's grateful for from family to food. I think that this is a great way to remember what gets us through the day. Thanksgiving is over, but there is no bad time to count our blessings.

Even though homework seems to be mounting and most of us feel sick, remember the small things that you can be grateful for.





## Asking to the banquet

by Amy Van Arsdell

Here at UCA, it's tradition for guys to ask girls to the formal Winter Banquet and for girls to ask guys to the Spring Party banquet, and it can go either way for the Junior-Senior banquet. Since this might be out of your comfort zone, here are a few do's and don'ts I've put together for the next time you're involved.

**DON'T** Google "banquet asks." Adventist schools are literally the only places that have banquets, but **DO** Google "how to ask someone to prom."

**DO** find out their interests and personality. Talk to their friends! Find out if they'd love to be asked in front of a bunch of people or just casually, and what their favorite things are.

**DO** give them something. This should be based on what you find out in the previous step. It doesn't have to be expensive. There are a lot of cute food-based puns ("Donut say no to banquet with me.")

**DON'T** ask more than one person. You might think they'll both be grateful to get asked, but they won't feel as special and will feel awkward, to say the least.

**DON'T** ask someone just because they're popular. If you ask someone you don't think will be asked, you have a higher probability of getting that "yes!"

**DON'T** ask over text/social media. That makes it seem like you're lazy and don't care for them very much.

**DON'T** let your fears stop you from asking someone. The worst thing they can do is say no, and you will still be proud for trying!

A banquet is more than being asked. You can be saved a lot of awkwardness if you don't get asked to the banquet or decide not to ask anyone. Just make sure you're at a table with your friends, and you'll have fun. But if you follow these tips you could challenge yourself to do something new and make really great memories.

## Amateur Hour auditions

by Owen Milledge

Amateur hour auditions were awesome. I had the privilege of being behind the scenes where there is a lot to do. There are guards that make sure no one gets into the music building that is not supposed to, and there are people that keep the waiting acts quiet as well as about ten people judging the acts.

The acts are graded on two basic criteria. The first was overall performance. I was surprised by how many good performances there were. The second was how prepared the acts were—many were promising but weren't prepared enough. Judges couldn't allow unprepared acts in. I was amazed with how many acts were unprepared. It seems some wait until right before auditions to practice. It's sad that people don't practice earlier because everyone loses out: the performers who don't get into the program and the audience who won't see the act.

## Performing at Amateur Hour

by Hannah Chilson

Every student involved in Amateur Hour knows the drill when they step out on to the stage to perform: Take your place on the darkened stage, wait as your introduction video plays, and begin your act once spotlight shines on you. Due to the dress rehearsal two days prior to the actual performance, students are well prepared for the processes that take place throughout the program. However, no amount of planning can brace students for the shock that comes when they look out into the crowds and see hundreds of eyes staring directly at them.

Amateur Hour consists of more than meets the eye when the performer is on stage. Backstage, students must grab the correct microphone or give stagehands their music before walking out in front of the audience. After singing a song, playing an instrumental piece, or acting in a skit, students return backstage. As their heart rate slows down to a normal pace, and clammy hands become less shaky, performers retrieve their sheet music or return microphones. They then proceed to join the audience to enjoy the following acts and watch current participants encounter the situation that they themselves have just experienced.



## Hey! free food!

by Missy Surdal

UCA has many unique things to offer our student body. We have the equestrian program, the farm, block schedules, and lunch with the principal. Students may look at having lunch with Principal Johnson as intimidating, a way to voice their concerns and thoughts, or simply an opportunity to indulge in good food outside of the cafeteria. No matter how you view it, the overall purpose of the Harvester lunches is for Mr. Johnson to connect with the students.

Mr. Johnson came up with this idea at Fresno Academy, where he used to be the principal. There he would take the kids to Taco Bell, so when he came here, he changed to the Harvester. These visits provide a nonintimidating way for him to talk to students and simply listen to them. Because of these visits, Mr. Johnson has been able to discover what many students do not like or what needs to be changed at UCA. It is a big help to him and a big help to us.

It is really nice to go to a school where the staff and principal want to hear from students. In some schools, that does not really happen. If you have not been picked for a Harvester trip yet, have no fear! Mr. Johnson is hoping to get to everyone before they graduate. And even if you don't want to talk to him, at least you get free food.

## Basketball tryouts

by Joelle Townsend

On November 18, a large group of UCA students headed to the gym for the much-anticipated basketball tryouts. The excitement was evident along with a mix of terror and joy.

Twenty-three girls tried out, hoping for a spot on either the Junior Varsity or Varsity team. The competition was fierce; all of the girls had skills in several areas. No cuts were made for Tuesday's second day of tryouts. Forty boys tried out for their chance to make a team. There was lots of talent but unfortunately after the first night, six boys were cut.

On Tuesday, both boys and girls held 45-minute practices to examine the talent and make important final roster choices. After the practices, the job of the coaches became very challenging. Coach Trent Pierce for the Varsity girls' team said that he and JV coach Becky Cox spent most of the night awake, reworking their teams over and over. However, by the next morning, all coaches felt confident in their choices and the team rosters were posted on the gymnasium doors. There are eleven girls on each girls' team and there are ten boys on each of the boys' teams.

Now that tryouts are over, the real work begins. Both individual skill and team skill will be put to the test. If you didn't make the team you wanted to this year, don't give up! Keep on working to improve and remember to cheer on your Lions. If you did make it, don't stop working hard and make your school proud—on and off the court.

## Night-time drives

by Gabriella Srikureja

"Be safe driving home," a senior yelled as their friend wearily trudged to the car parking lot. Since daylight saving time on November 3, village students have faced the necessity of driving home in the dark. This concerns many at UCA because nighttime is accident central and long days, rush hour, and seasonal ice contribute to a more dangerous commute.

The most common reason for accidents at night is exhaustion. Most students begin their days at 8:00 a.m. and end around 5:20 p.m. (disregarding any extracurricular events such as sports). They employ the majority of their spare moments--outside of the regular hectic class schedules--to catch up on homework or projects. This, combined with an average seven hours of sleep a night, leads to detrimental amounts of mental and physical exhaustion and causes slower reactions to dangers on the road.

Because of the longer school days, UCA students tend to drive home at the same time as most working adults. These people, as more experienced drivers, tend to exceed the speed limit in an attempt to get home faster. This influx of speeding traffic not only encourages impressionable students to speed themselves, but also creates vision impairment from the headlights of oncoming and passing traffic.

Another factor for an increase in accidents is purely seasonal. This year has been quite uncommon with new record-low temperatures. However, the temperatures during the day have not been low enough to create snow; thus, the majority of the weather has been rain and fog. The "warmth" lulls students into a false sense of security so they disregard warnings of ice.

It is miraculous that no one has been hurt driving home yet. But these "not yet's" should not cloud our judgment. We must stay vigilant and proactive about our safety and the safety of our fellow students.

## Cats

by Braden Reitz

If any of you have gone into Mrs. Cs room lately, you might have wrinkled your nose a little from a slight smell. No, it's not just the zoo that she has in her room (although her collection is quite impressive). You might smell preservatives--and not like jam. It's the smell of preservatives coming from dead cats that have been cut open and skinned. That's right, APDC has started its dissection of the cats! Although many students taking the class are excited about this, the majority of student noses are not.

Now, thankfully, there are massive fans and the outdoor breeze that help with this predicament, but, all the same, if you walk in and see several people at the lab counters with what seems to be lumps of fur, you might want to plug your nose or, if possible, run!

But please do not say anything mean about these creatures. They all have names and at least used to have feelings and deserve out respect for their contribution to science.

## Wheelchair vs crutches

by Corban Acker

Perhaps you have never wondered what it would be like to live on campus with a broken leg. Well, guess what? I'm going to tell you anyway! Here are all the details to life at UCA if you happen to suffer from crippling injuries.

As long as you aren't upstairs in the Ad Building when the fire alarm sounds, you can make it just about anywhere without leaving your wheelchair. If the alarm does sound, though, Mr. Hartman will come to the rescue! Hopping down the stairs is a ton easier if you don't have to carry the wheelchair along with you!

You may think being in a wheelchair makes it pretty awful to get to and from classes, the dorm and the cafeteria, but it is not always so! There are some pretty helpful people out there who would love to help you get to lunch a little quicker, and rolling down the long hill toward front campus is a BLAST! Someone might even jump on the back for a short ride. Riding up and down the elevator in the AD Building . . . now those are good times. Make sure to bring a classmate for those trips, though, since pushing the button and wheeling in and out promptly enough by yourself might be a tad hard.

"Okay that's great, but what about crutches? No can push you around on those." I'll have to agree with you on that one, but someone can still carry your plate at meal times, but be careful to watch out and not spill your food all over them as they help you out.

UCA has some pretty awesome and helpful people, and I'd have to say that the wheelchair wins this race—rollin' in a few strides ahead!



The Advanced Home Renovation class works on constructing a produce stand next to the greenhouse.

## Behind the scenes in the girls' dorm

by Abbie McAdams

Much goes on in the girls' dorm that very few people hear about. For example, every year during Christmas time, the senior girls meet in the lobby of the dorm and spend the evening putting up Christmas trees, lights, ornaments, and other decorations. Then, after everyone goes to bed, the seniors split up and head to a different halls where they wait for the annual fire drill that comes at around 11:00 at night. Once the alarm goes off, the girls run through the halls, banging on the doors of the lower-classmen and screaming "Get out!" over and over. The girls run out of their rooms, looking very confused, half awake, and scared. Usually there are a few who cry. They all head out to the front lawn for the fire drill and after that cruel and unusual trauma, they all go into the lobby and see the decorations and are rewarded with a Krispy Kreme donut.

Other things that happen in the girls' dorm include "illegal" activities, such as sneaking into each other's rooms after last room check. Sometimes you need the moral support (and coffee) from your friends when you have to stay up late to study. The really brave students might even harbor an animal in their dorm rooms, even with the threat of the \$100 fine. The fine is worth it to some, who want the companionship of their animal friends as well as the status of being able to say they kept a pet in the dorm.

On the more relaxed days, girls just sit around and talk a lot. We watch movies, make food, listen to music, and talk some more. Some girls have "shower parties" which sounds a lot weirder than it is. We just go take showers at the same time so we can all talk because showering in silence is boring.

Things can get really crazy in the girls' dorm, but at the end of the day, we just like to hang out with our friends and make fun memories.

## Jesus on campus

by Lorelei Harbour

Before I came to UCA, I heard about the amazing music program, the spiritual atmosphere, the gourmet café food, and the teachers. When people told me the teachers were wonderful here, I just thought they were amazing on a teaching level. But upon coming to school here, I realized how true that statement is. Yes, we have teachers who are wonderful at teaching. Most importantly, we have teachers who shine love, caring, and Jesus.

As I go through my third year here, I begin to realize how much I have grown to love and appreciate the teachers. Mrs. C's door is always open to any student who needs to talk. She is always willing to listen, pray for you, lead you in the best direction, and scold you (as only a loving mother would). Mr. Gladding is also someone who clearly walks hand in hand with Jesus. His main goal in life is to lead you to God, and his second goal is to help you understand math. Like Mrs. C, his door is always open, and he is always ready to help a student understand. He is really good at answering the "why" questions in life. Pastor Fred has taught me, and many others, about the love of Jesus. He is someone I trust wholeheartedly and is another teacher who listens to students' struggles and guides them as best he can. Mrs. Melendy's door is open to talk about the harder things of life, listen to drama going on, or to let you just curl up and cry. Mr. Anderson pushes you to do your best, can joke around with you, but also can have a really deep conversation. He is just one of many teachers you can tell deeply cares about his students.

I only mentioned a few of the many, many staff here that are like that. All the teachers and staff have something in common: Jesus. It's clear in the way they talk, act, and teach. They care, very deeply, about us and leading us to Christ. I may have senioritis a year early, but I really dread the day I have to leave the staff behind when I go on to college. Until then, I'll soak up every piece of advice, every devotion, and every laugh. And I know that what I've learned here, and from them, will stick with me forever.

## Media Week

by Emmalyn Logan

One Wednesday during assembly, students were surprised to hear Principal Johnson announce that we would be using a week-of-prayer schedule during the next week. He explained that while we wouldn't necessarily be having a week of prayer, we would be having meetings every morning in the old cafeteria. These meetings were going to be conducted by a couple from a ministry called Anchor Point Films, and they were going to be about the affects that media has on our minds.

Many students were skeptical, mostly due to the number of talks on media we receive as young people growing up surrounded by it. Almost all of the media presentations we've heard have given the same information and come at the subject from the same angle. Many students felt that this would be how the presentations went.

Throughout the week, Chad and Fadia did share a lot of information that some students already knew, but they also shared some personal stories. And while their focus was to be on media, they didn't focus as much on it as they did on how much God loves us and wants the best for us in all areas of our lives.

At the end of the week, a lot of students still felt that the presentations were redundant, but they were a little more accepting of Chad and Fadia. All in all, it was an interesting week.

## Recognition or relaxation?

by Molly Ahola

Holidays. These are days when a group chooses to pause from their busy lives to recognize something specific: a day, a person, a group of people, or a combination of those things. These days are regularly recognized across the country as days of rest – businesses are closed, the country is put on pause, and schools are closed. That is the standard for holidays, but as we are well aware, this is not always the case.

One such example is November 11. This year, it was a busy Monday where everything was the same at our thriving campus. No one seemed to remember or really care that this is a very famous holiday where we should recognize people that have sacrificed their lives and time to guarantee our freedom. Many complain that we are required to attend school on this day, but there are few that remember the reason the holiday was created in the first place.

Today, Veterans Day gives recognition to people who have served at any point in time, but the date originated from "Armistice Day," which was on November 11, 1919, the first year anniversary of the end of World War I. There was a resolution passed through Congress in 1926 regarding an annual observance, but it was not recognized as a national holiday until 1938. Although there are some strong feelings regarding our attendance to school on this famous day, we should take into consideration the reason we are able to go to school in the first place, which is what Veterans Day is all about.

## Team flies to AcroFest

by Sophie Enjati

AcroFest is a huge workshop where schools from all over get together and perform for each other. A little over 30 schools went to AcroFest this year to learn new things about the sport of gymnastics and meet new people. This year the event was held at Southern Adventist University in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It went from a Wednesday to a Sunday and every day we all had 6 hours of acro practice. Each day we had different rotations and spent an hour learning a new skill at each one. Thursday night, we had a talent show that went on for at least 2 hours where people showed off their skills.

Saturday night was the big performance. Over 2,000 people came to watch everyone perform and many more were watching the livestream. The program went on for 4 hours and everyone got to show off their best skills. It was truly the best experience to see people from all over North America and share the same passion for this sport. We grew together as a team and felt so motivated to keep trying our best.

Since this is my senior year this was the last chance for me to attend, but if I had it my way, I would go every single year.

## Harvest Week

by Ethan Jiao

Every year during the end of October, the guys' dorm organizes a Harvest Week. This week includes different activities for each hall every day, and it is a great bonding activity.

There are five different activities, the first being onion eating. Each hall has to compete with the others in eating two whole onions, and the hall with the fastest time wins. People usually end up in tears and throwing up, but it is a good opportunity to see who is the real man of the hall.

The second activity is Rake and Run. For this activity, each hall goes to rake leaves at a staff house as fast as they can in the dark without being noticed. This is usually the most fun and gives the guys a chance to do a good deed.

The third activity is Football Tee-off. This activity requires some strong kicking skills as you are trying to kick a football off a tee up into the weight room in the gym. The hall with the highest success percentage wins. This activity is very beneficial to those who plays soccer.

The fourth activity is free throw contest. Each hall has three chances of making free throws, and the hall with the most free throws wins. If there are basketball players on a hall, it's a win for sure.

The last activity is the Bat Spin Lay-up, each participant has to do 10 bat spins and then try to do a lay-up. The hall with the shortest time wins.

Overall, Harvest Week is just a fun time for hall residents to know each other better through all the activities, and it definitely adds more fun to dorm life.



## Senior church project

by Joshua Cho

For second quarter, the Seniors switched Bible teachers from Pastor Fred to Pastor Sid and were going to learn about church Leadership. In the first week of second quarter, they were greeted by a project worth 2000 points, and the whole class would receive the same grade. They could pass together or fail together.

The class was to function as a church body. Each student (or church member in this case), had to participate in three activities. Some of the activities included were giving 100 compliments, 15 deep conversations, 40 acts of service, 10 dorm worships, and 10 Bible studies. After several class periods of organization, the activities were assigned to all church members. After an activity was completed, the church member was to write a report and present in front of the church what they did, who was present, and the response they received.

It doesn't seem too hard, right? One catch was that there were not to be any negative or hypocritical remarks in class. If you were heard making those kinds of remarks, there would be 10 points taken off the overall score.

The only way to get extra credit in the class was if a church member successfully brought a non-SDA to commit their life to Jesus and join the church.

This project is beneficial to students because it shows them how a church should run. Everyone should get involved and present to the church what they did. The church doesn't need hypocritical people and values baptism and conversion very highly. Hopefully this class will help the future of the SDA church.



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## Tours

by Gabriella Srikureja

It is uncontested that home-leave is the most exciting event at UCA. A close second is, of course, touring. The reasons for this are simple: students are able to leave campus, they can eat at restaurants, and they get to perform with a group of their friends. However, out of all the reasons for students to love tours, perhaps the biggest is being able to ride on the bus with friends.

Bus riding is a wonderful experience because of the plethora of things that are available to do. On the bus, students can choose to be extroverted or introverted. One could take a nap or listen to music and daydream; they could even choose to do homework. A student could watch a movie with friends, play card games, or simply talk with their fellow passengers. There is almost no limit to what can be done on the bus.

Another plus to bus riding is being able to mock puny cars. There is truly nothing more satisfying than speeding down the highway and passing a small, run down Toyota which cannot keep up with the performance of UCA's grand white tour bus. It is also satisfying at a stop light to peer down from the windows as an omnipotent god watching the tiny ant-like cars whose passengers know nothing of why a bus is beside them in traffic.

Perhaps the best part of bus riding is that it facilitates traveling around. It makes it possible to go and explore new places with your friends when you would otherwise not have that opportunity.