

Choral Festival hits the right notes

by *Ethan Jiao*

This year's Choral Festival at Walla Walla University was successful. It started on Wednesday afternoon with every participating high school arriving at the university. The visiting students settled into the dorms and had supper. After supper, the 3-hour rehearsal started with Dr. Scott. Most of the time was spent getting singers into their seats as there were two hundred to arrange. Then they started to practice their internal metronome, making sure they did not speed up. After that, they practiced their vowel sounds and posture to make sure they were right.

On Thursday, they started at 8:00 a.m. and stood for hours practicing songs for the concert. The schedule included 1 hour and 30 minutes of singing followed by a 15-minute break. After another hour and fifteen minutes of practice, it was time for lunch, which was followed by an identical afternoon schedule. Every section was divided and had different choral directors help them individually. It was a good chance to learn from music teachers of other schools. Friday repeated Thursday's intense schedule.

On Saturday, it was finally time for the students to show their talents and sing their songs. During church, the choir performed three songs and the orchestra also performed two songs. At 4:00 p.m., the church quickly filled and the concert began. The songs went pretty smoothly, the choir and organ stunned the congregation with their sacred pieces, and the orchestra also performed in perfect harmony.

Overall, Choral Festival was a great time despite the long time standing. It was a good opportunity to learn at a university level and make new friends.



On February 1, for the second time during its life at UCA, high winds damaged the greenhouse cover. A new cover will be installed, and the greenhouse will transition to soil-based agriculture.

Friendship Tournament tests Northwest academies

by *Gabriella Srikureja*

On Friday, January 24, UCA students left campus for Walla Walla University to support their basketball teams participating in Friendship Tournament. The tournament started on Thursday when teams began playing for positions in their respective brackets until Friday sunset. The games on Sabbath (after sundown) determined the final ranking of the teams. The UCA teams played for fifth place in the girls' bracket and third place in the boys' bracket. Unfortunately, the girls lost and ended up in sixth place. However, the boys' team earned an exciting victory. After the UCA boys played, the championship games for the boys' and girls' bracket for first place were played. These games were the real event for the evening.

The girls' championship game happened first. It was Auburn against Walla Walla Valley Academy. During the first half of the game, the lead switched from team to team. In the third quarter, the Auburn girls pulled ahead to a steady lead. Unfortunately, before the buzzer to end the fourth quarter, one of the Auburn players, who had possession of the ball, passed over the half point line crossed back and passed over it again. To the outrage of the WWVA coach, none of the referees called the foul, and despite his "insistence" the referees refused to call the play and the first-place position went to Auburn.

The next game was the boys' championship games. Overall, it was much less impressive than the girls' game with a final point difference of more than 20 points giving the win to Auburn over Puget Sound. This game, unlike the girls', showed good sportsmanship by both teams and their respective coaches.



Band Clinic draws guests

by Sydney Beaubien

Have you ever missed your siblings so much that you wanted to have them in your room again? Do you ever long to see clothes scattered on the floor that aren't yours, and smell dirty socks? Well, luckily for you, UCA's Band Clinic had you covered.

Every two years, kids between grades 7 and 9 show up on campus Thursday morning for Band Clinic, leaving two days later after their concert. And if you're lucky, some will even stay in your very own dorm room, and you can remember just how much you and your siblings didn't get along when you lived at home. And if that isn't tempting enough for you, then perhaps the alluring idea of not having room check on Friday is.

To end Band Clinic, there is a musical worship service in the gym on Sabbath. The setup was complete with not one, but two rows of blaring trumpets, all eager to show us just how loud they could be. One could only wonder while watching these guys play which ones would be back again.

Senior Recognition approaches

by Joelle Townsend

Before long, Senior Recognition will be coming to the campus of UCA. Preparations are underway in order to be ready for this important weekend.

One of the biggest events of the weekend will be the Senior Rec Talent Show. Auditions for the talent show were supposed to happen during the last week of January; but after some discussion, sponsors decided to move the date due to the amount of stress and all the activities students had been experiencing. The new date for auditions was February 3rd.

Late on February 3rd, students were prepared for auditions that were supposed to happen that night. All of the sudden, around 5:00 p.m., all power went out at UCA and the surrounding area. That threw a wrench into auditions once again. After several phone calls, Dean Steph and the other sponsors, once again moved the audition date. At the time this article was written the audition date was moved to February 11th.

Other preparations are also being made for Senior Rec weekend. These include finding speakers for vespers and church and finalizing a class song. According to class president Sophie Enjati, the officers are on schedule with their preparations and are looking forward to the weekend.

Make sure to watch for updates regarding this special weekend.

Swoppers retreat to MiVoden

by Luke Mirasol

Every year, the students at UCA select twelve students to speak for Student Week of Prayer (SWOP) in March. The SWOP speakers head out for a retreat during the first week of January. This year, the student speakers headed out to Camp MiVoden for four days under the leadership of Pastor Fred and Mr. and Mrs. Gladding.

Each day, the retreat provided new ways for the students to experience God and build their relationships with Him. It was a very eye-opening experience for many of the "Swoppers" and God's presence was felt throughout the few days at MiVoden. The speakers experienced a sense of unity that will be unforgettable.

I know we all will be excited to see how God uses this retreat and the speakers during SWOP to bless us and help us all grow closer to God.

Student week of prayer

by Faith Workman

Every school year, a special week of prayer is set aside in which the students themselves lead out. These students are chosen through an anonymous survey of their peers and are usually spiritual leaders.

In preparation for their talks, the selected student speakers go on a special retreat to MiVoden. There, they are able to spend personal time in God's word and discuss what topics they want to address in their sermonettes.

Student-led weeks of prayer are especially important because they allow students to grow in their spiritual walk as well as become leaders in the church. They are examples to those still questioning core values, and they encourage all who are searching for something better in their lives to keep looking until they find what they are after, and to rely on Christ all the while.

Conflict cancels Valentine's Party

by Hannah Chilson

With Valentine's Day steadily approaching, the ASB team planned a party for the Saturday before the holiday. Each meeting, the team discussed activities and made arrangements with the cafeteria and students who would be involved.

However, ASB members realized that the party would most likely occur at the same time as an away varsity basketball game, and many of the students who had agreed to help were part of varsity basketball.

Hopeful to still pull off the party, ASB attempted to make other plans for celebrating Valentine's Day, but due to lack of time for necessary organization, the team decided to cancel the party but continue to sell Valentine's chocolates or a flower for only a dollar each. Love isn't completely dead after all.

UCA Blood Drive

by Abbie McAdams

To get straight A's throughout high school, you have to put in blood, sweat, and tears. This is quite literal at UCA, where some of our teachers offer extra credit to students who are willing to donate at a Red Cross Blood Drive. A few times a year, the Red Cross visits our school and hosts a blood drive for both students and staff. Some donate out of the goodness of their hearts, but many students donate because having twenty extra credit points in a class like Civics is very helpful. It is a great incentive to get people to participate, and it benefits everyone.

The donating process is fairly simple. Once you arrive, one of the facilitators calls you over to a private table and asks you some questions. Then, they test your blood pressure, temperature, and iron levels. To test your iron, they prick your finger and put a drop of your blood into a machine. (Some people say that this is more painful than actually getting your blood drawn.) After that, they lead you over to a reclined cot where you sit down and wait for them to draw your blood.

They look at each arm to see which vein is more easily accessible, and then they mark your arm to know where the vein is. Next, they wipe the arm with sanitizing wipes and write a bunch of information on the bags that will collect your blood. Finally, it's time for the anticipated moment: putting the needle in your arm. It's an uncomfortable pinch for a few seconds, and then it's over and you just have to squeeze a ball every few seconds to keep the blood flowing. It usually takes around 10-20 minutes to fill the bag, and then they take out the needle, put on a bandage, and you're done.

It's an easy process. Just learn from my mistake and be sure to eat a snack afterwards, or else you might almost pass out while giving a Bible presentation.

Another schedule (eye roll)

by Luke Mirasol

"Another schedule change?" came the groan from somewhere in the back of the boys' dorm chapel after Dean Hess's announcement about a second semester schedule change. This groan is well understandable considering that we have had around a dozen different schedules over the last two years. However, this latest schedule may be good regardless of what the skeptics say.

The new schedule change results in a consistent, non-changing schedule for Monday through Thursday. This will erase the need for remembering the changes from "regular schedule" to "collaboration schedule."

This schedule shift has the goal of making life a little simpler and give the students and faculty some relief. The influx of schedules over the past few years has undoubtedly led to countless tardies and frustrations for students and staff. This new schedule also has the goal of easing the minds of students and faculty as many of them already have enough to worry about. The schedule also provides collaboration time every day except Wednesday. Students will now be able to meet and collaborate much more often.

This schedule is the beginning of a new UCA era, an era in which a different schedule is no longer needed every other day.



A train from the Spokane, Spangle, and Palouse Railway makes its way south along the airstrip

Basic ____ Shop?

by Amy Van Arsdell

When UCA's Stained Glass class was cancelled for the first semester due to the teacher, Mrs. Kravig, having moved to Hong Kong, many students were put in Mr. Hagele's Basic Auto Shop class though they had absolutely no interest in cars. These luckless seniors needed technology credits in order to graduate. Many students use their time in class to fix their own cars since it's cheaper than taking it to a professional, but what do you do if you don't have a car of your own? Turns out, you can practice the same auto body work techniques on old bowling pins!

The bowling pins we were given looked like someone had taken a power saw to them as many had designs cut into them. Our goal was to have smooth bowling pins, so we used Bondo-like filler to fill the indentations and sanded it down . . . and sanded the subsequent layer of primer . . . and reapplied filler and sanded some more! Finally, we were able to paint the pins and even add a pearlescent finish to make them sparkle. Since this process took several weeks, some students gave their bowling pins names such as Leonard, Dranoel, and Pinellope. If you've ever wanted your own personalized bowling pin, I hope you signed up for Basic Bowling Pin Shop, Block 7B, for second semester.



Photo: Amy Van Arsdell

Sounds like an extra credit story to me

by Emmalyn Logan

If you're a student at UCA, chance are you're probably either taking a class from Mr. Lacey or you're destined to. Countless students through the years have become familiar with the sound of his low, dramatic voice interrupting their various conversations with the words, "Hmm, sounds like an extra credit story to me." This seems to be one of Mr. Lacey's favorite phrases and applies to a limitless number of subjects.

Did you contract a rare disease from handshake? "Sounds like an extra credit story."

Have you been losing sleep due to your roommate's incessant snoring? "That would make a great extra credit story!"

Having a mental crisis over where to go for worship every Wednesday? "You should write an extra credit story about that!"

No matter what the topic—amazing or ridiculous, intriguing or boring—Mr. Lacey will undoubtedly spot an opportunity for extra credit in the midst of it.

So whether you're a perfectionist "failing" Mr. Lacey's class with an A- or a procrastinator actually failing with an F and scrambling to raise your grade, my advice to you is this: instead of laughing it off when Mr. Lacey interjects his timeless extra credit advice into your conversation, maybe try out this idea for yourself. It might just save your grade.

On the slopes

by Carly Haeger

As many of us are aware, the UCA Rec Ski program kicked off the season before Christmas break. The program offers P.E. credit, Sundays well-spent on the snowy slopes and Taco Bell dinners. What's not to love?

Unfortunately, during the first ski day, the snow at Schweitzer was less than desirable with icy, patchy snow and rocks and bushes poking through the thin snow layer in every direction. There was a little powder in the trees, but for the less advanced, it was not easily reachable. "It's a groomer kind of day," Chris Kime said after discovering few runs were open. He wasn't wrong.

Fog rolled in later in the morning, rendering the rest of the day overcast and shadowy. Due to the poor conditions, skiers and snowboarders alike scratched up their freshly waxed gear and crashed more frequently. Some even opted to stay in the lodge after taking a few runs.

But everyone was ready to visit Schweitzer again and hoped much more snow would come. Sure enough, in the next assembly Pastor Sid Hardy, a leader of the program, announced that Schweitzer had received at least 20 inches of snow within 24 hours with another big snowstorm headed that way.

Conditions continued to improve, and the Rec Ski program went on with its usual success.

Renovation of Lacey Hall chapel complete

by Julia Welch

I remember dorm worships before the renovation. We sat on old folding metal chairs. Whatever temperature the chapel was, the chairs were 20 degrees colder. It was advisable to wear long pants or to bring a blanket to avoid the ice shelf otherwise called a chair seat. There also was a highly decorated carpet—the decorations tended to be either food stains or paint. To top it all off, the walls were a nice shade of beige.

All that changed at the beginning of this year, though. The chapel would be redone and worships temporarily held in the dorm's front lobby. The transition from the chapel to the lobby was a bit odd. In the chapel, the number of girls appeared small, but in the smaller lobby there was the illusion of a larger number of girls.

It took a while to move back to the chapel, but when we did, it was quite a shock. In place of the raggedy old carpet now lay a new, clean one. The beige walls were now a calm white, and there was a new PA and projection system. But the most impressive addition was the chairs. Gone were the old folding ones, and in their place were rows of cushioned and upholstered chairs. The cushions are soft and fairly large, giving much more room to sit on.

I've heard talk that the walls may be painted purple. The few people I've discussed this with have said purple walls seem distasteful. I agree with them. Thankfully, no color change has yet occurred.



Sunny days and sick singers

by Molly Ahola

Octet's tour to Loma Linda began at 3:45 Friday morning when all 9 of us successfully woke up and made it on time to the airport by 4:30 a.m. The anticipation of the trip (along with a few cups of coffee) kept us all wide awake as we boarded our plane and began our journey. After a brief layover in Phoenix and about three and a half hours of flying, we stepped off the plane in our jeans and sweatshirts.

We all immediately began to sweat as we realized we had entered an entirely different climate. Our first task was to adorn everyone with shorts and sandals, which required a trip to Target for those who forgot clothes for warm weather. We spent our afternoons soaking up every ray of sunshine we could possibly get, knowing it would have to last us a few more months once we returned to the dreariness of Spangle.

To our dismay, our day in San Diego featured clouds, but that didn't stop us from being the only people wearing shorts on the entire beach. We further labeled ourselves as Washingtonians as we body surfed in the ocean among fellow wet-suited surfers. Some of the more logical resorted to walking along the beach, riding power scooters, window shopping, and indulging in good old pizza and ice cream.

Unfortunately, the warm weather and our day at the ocean did not do much for the large percentage of us who came down with the flu. Fevers were rampant, and cough drops and tissues were passed around throughout the entire trip. But even through the sickness, we returned in brighter spirits with a store of Vitamin D to help battle the loads of backup work we faced upon returning to campus.

Field Trip

by Joshua Cho

On February 3, the Advanced Home Renovation class went on a field trip to Home Depot to buy electrical supplies for the produce stand. Not all the students remembered about the field trip, but luckily the van had no gas, so there was a delay.

The first stop was at Little Caesar's to pick up pizza for lunch. After many burned mouths and whiplash from Mr. Melendy's driving, the class arrived at Home Depot. They entered the store and made their way to the electrical aisle. When the class arrived at the aisle . . . most of them disappeared but would show up occasionally to sneak items into the shopping cart. After a few minutes of shopping, they bought all the correct items and left.

The next stop was McDonalds for some ice cream. As they sat in the drive thru, Mr. Melendy joked that McDonalds never has a working ice cream machine. As it turned out, McDonalds didn't have a working ice cream machine, so they went to Wendy's instead.

Overall, it was a good experience to get the electrical supplies and have some fun while doing it.

Lights out!

by Kytanna Ballard

Mr. Spano was teaching, and it felt like a regular Wednesday. Then his printer began to screech, blink, and beep and would not print. The room lights began to flicker, and, all of a sudden, the whole room became dark. Some burst out laughing with confusion. This was an unexpected surprise! Unfortunately, it didn't change anything for Mr. Spano: he continued talking, using a flashlight.

After getting out of class, I noticed the entire ad building was dark and looked pretty cool. I walked to the cafeteria for dinner, but it was dark inside as well, and I began to wonder if we were going to eat (thanks to the chef who supplied us with breakfast burritos for dinner).

Looking at my phone, I saw it was at 10%. This wasn't good, and there was nothing to do in the dorm either. Back in Lacey Hall, a few girls knew the cameras didn't work and began running around scaring others out of their minds. I hung out with the deans, who became bored and began staring at their blank computer screens. I hoped they were okay and wondered what was in those breakfast burritos. Around 6:40, the power came back on and everything almost returned to normal.

431 – A New Bible Class

by Emmalyn Logan

An alternate Bible class has become an option for students second semester. Just a few weeks into the third quarter, students were made aware of this addition to the schedule. Many wanted to attend but couldn't because of conflicts with their other classes, so a newly revised schedule has allowed for any student to join the alternate Bible class.

The name of this new Bible class is 431. The numbers come from a verse in the Bible – Acts 4:31. That verse talks about the early believers praying for God's Spirit and receiving it. Above all, the goal of the class is to receive God's Spirit and share it with others.

Many people wondered what the new Bible class would cover and what students would be doing. During the first class, Pastor Fred and Pastor Sid answered that question . . . kind of. In a nutshell, the answer they gave was, "We don't know." They explained that the goal of the class is to pursue God and to follow Him wherever He takes us. Beyond that, there isn't a very detailed syllabus of what the new Bible class will be doing.

During the first couple of classes, students mainly prayed together, read Bible passages and discussed whatever came to mind as they were reading. Many students have journals that they are writing their thoughts in as well.

In all the chaos and busyness of school life, it's nice to have a chance to slow down and connect with God for a few minutes.

Spain/Portugal trip surprise

by Joshua Cho

Upper Columbia Academy has several trips during Spring Break. Two of them are mission trips. One is going to Malawi and the other is going to Cambodia. The third trip is going to Spain and Portugal. Headed by Mr. Spano, they will visit several historical attractions such as the Chapel of Bones and the Seville Cathedral.

During a Wednesday Assembly, the announcements were normal: skiing, attendance, mission trips, and the new Bible class. However, when Mr. Spano walked on to the stage and said that he had an announcement he'd never had before, the students were attentive immediately. He announced that two people signed up for the trip had to drop out and wanted to give their spots up for free. Then Mr. Spano asked who was interested. Nearly every hand went up. To be selected for the free trip, students had to have a valid passport and had to write a paragraph about why they wanted to go on the trip. Under 20 students met the requirements.

Later that week, a group of staff members got together and decided who won the free trip. The following week, on Monday, Mr. Spano announced the winners during lunch. The winners were Alex Wilfley and Richard Scott. They were so happy for the opportunity that would probably not arise again soon.

The last straw

by Kailey Nash

Upon returning from Christmas break, we had evidently begun our journey to rock bottom.

It all started on Tuesday, January 7, as weary students entered the cafeteria expecting warm, freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies. But, lo and behold, they were not there! The shock sent the entire student body into an uproar. We thought things couldn't be worse.

The following day, Wednesday, January 8, frantic souls entered the cafeteria to see that Cookie Tuesday had been replaced by Cookie Wednesday. The poor students could no longer depend on anything! Frustrated, tired, stressed, and confused teens roamed about campus going to classes on the wrong days, uncertain thanks to a Cookie Wednesday.

Now we can rest a little more easily since Cookie Wednesday lasted for only one week. All is at peace until the next change.

It's over

by Julianna Luce

Well, folks, it's over. Christmas break ended weeks ago and we faced the longest period of school without a break—roughly five weeks. Thirty-three days long, this stretch of school is what makes or breaks a student. Included in those days is the end of first semester with lots of make-up work, quizzes, and tests. Stress and seasonal depression set in and it seems the sun will never shine on our poor souls again.

Amidst this challenging period of time, there were a few positive things to look forward to: the start of our last semester of the year; the days getting longer and signaling glorious, sunny days were coming; and the fact that after February home-leave, the months will fly by, and we will soon find ourselves at graduation.

So enjoy the time (seniors in particular) and always remember that the only time to look back is to see how far you have come.

2020



Photo: Dr. Laura Pierce

Dual credit American Government

by Amy Van Arsdell

In Dual-Credit American Government, taught by Dr. Laura Pierce, the seniors learned about presidents and their campaign strategies, public relations, and funding. To apply this knowledge, at the end of the second semester they completed a "President Project." They created a moderate third-party for the 2020 presidential election, the Future Party, and its candidate, James Moore. Each of the students in the small class was responsible for a different aspect.

Dee Van Arsdell took the "Future Party" name and developed a logo designed to evoke script in the Constitution, created a social media pages, and made campaign buttons with Pastor Fred's picture on them, since he'd volunteered to be James Moore's face. Corban Acker created the campaign platform with the candidate's beliefs, which was used by Luke Mirasol to develop the campaign strategy. Marccus Palsgrove created the party's fundraising strategy. Amy Van Arsdell designed a political poll to find UCA's attitude on our third-party candidate and discovered that 47.54% of the responders "generally identify as Republican," 13.11% of responders "generally identify as Democratic," 29.51% "generally identify as Independent," and 9.84% politically identify as "something else."

The students of Dual-Credit Government worked long and hard on their projects and gained a great sense of satisfaction when they were done! This was a great example of project-based learning that will be remembered for years to come.

UCA vs Liberty

by Maddie Nichols

For the first time, the UCA Lions basketball teams played the Liberty Lancers at UCA.

The JV girls played first and ended with the Lancers way in the lead. Next, the JV boys played, and again the Lancers kept a solid lead. The varsity girls played third and Liberty beat us by a landslide. Last, the varsity boys played. This was the most intense game of all. The Lions kept the score pretty close for the first quarter. They fought hard and played well, but it wasn't enough. They lost 47 to 90.

Everyone had amazing sportsmanship, and the crowd went wild whenever a shot was made. Our students were amazing cheerleaders and watched every second of the games. The Liberty Lancers were just too tough to beat, but they were first in state

We are proud of all our teams and will continue to cheer them on—win or lose.

is a regular student publication of Upper Columbia Academy
Spangle, Washington 99031
This issue's contributors included
Faith Workman, Joelle Townsend, Amy Van Arsdell, Hannah Chilson, Sydney Beaubien,
Gabriella Srikureja, Abbie McAdams, Luke Mirasol, Carly Haeger, Julia Welch,
Emmalyn Logan, Molly Ahola, Joshua Cho, Ethan Jiao, Kytanna Ballard, Kailey Nash,
Julianna Luce, Maddie Nichols, Evan Pierce, and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

Christmas concert

by *Evan Pierce*

The music groups had several tours, but no performance compares to the annual Christmas Concert at the Fox Theater in downtown Spokane. Extremely large amounts of nervousness and anticipation built up as members of the various music groups filed off the bus and prepared for rehearsals five hours before the concert began.

The groups were in great form for this, and just when you thought no piece could get any better than the last, the next would consistently sound just as good if not better.

There were several small groups organized by band director, Rob Knipple, and choir director, Curtis Anderson. One group that seemed to be a favorite was the saxophone quartet headlined by junior Ian Schroetlin playing the soprano saxophone. The piece was very lively with complicated melodies that were executed almost flawlessly. At the end, for a finale, the orchestra with a few band members played as a symphony orchestra. This was a perfect end to what was a great experience for families and friends alike.

The Christmas Concert this year was one to remember. All of the groups worked extremely hard and their efforts paid off. All the musicians are looking forward to another semester of tours and classes. With the groups working so well together already, it should be a great rest of the year in the UCA music department.

