



## Ski season begins

by Molly Ahola

Because Christmas break was later this year, the Rec Ski season began on December 16. Many excited skiers and snowboarders were waiting with great anticipation for 6:00 on that Sunday morning when the great adventure would actually begin.

After an hour and a half of driving, people were restless and ready to get out on the slopes. However, right as we began advancing up the mountain, we got stuck in the snow. After what seemed like eternity, the bus began to pull forward with the helpful addition of chains around the tires. Many excruciatingly slow switchbacks later, we arrived at the resort and the season had begun.

With four inches of fresh snow, the powder was amazing though slightly heavy because of warming temperatures. Part of the mountain was closed because there was not enough snow to cover many of the bushes and small trees, but the runs that were open were fantastic. After a brief lunch break, we hit the mountain again even though most of our gear was sopping wet at that point.

When at last the time came to head back home again, we dragged our weary bodies down the hill to where the bus was waiting. In stark contrast to the trip up, people were exhausted but grateful for a wonderful day. We waited in contented sleepiness for the classic stop at Taco Bell, where we refreshed our energy levels and ended the day with food and friends. As always, the trip was well worth the long drive and the early morning.

## Christmas at the Fox

By Hannah Chilson

On Thursday, December 20, Upper Columbia Academy had their twelfth annual Christmas concert at the Fox Theatre. Music students at the school worked hard for months to perfect their songs, and the concert featured all of UCA's musical groups: Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Band, Choir, Choraliers, and Octet. The first half of the program featured sacred songs and the second half included classic secular Christmas music . . . and hats.

Students left school on concert day based on the musical group they are in. Some groups that needed more practice time, such as Band, Orchestra, and Choraliers, left at 2:50. The concert itself began at 7:30, which gave students plenty of time to prepare and practice their songs.

Many student families come to enjoy the program, and, best of all, it is free.

by Benji Buursma

The Fox Concert is UCA's symbol of Christmas spirit. Those who participate may have feelings of stress and anxiety, but once the show begins, the laughter, fun, and beauty of performing make the worry and hard work worthwhile. There is no more rewarding feeling than putting your heart into performing and embracing the relief that comes at the end.

This may have been the first or seventh performance of the year for some students, but for Seniors it was the final chapter of their last high-school Christmas, a last chance to embrace the moments and share the joys of the season with high-school friends.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Groups of friends enjoy being together at the banquet

## A night in Paris

by Abbie McAdams

The winter banquet this year was themed as “A Night in Paris.” While it wasn’t quite like an evening in France, it was certainly a night to remember. As students returned to the dorms after their excursions, there was only a short amount of time to get ready for the banquet before the buses would reload to head to the conference office.

The dorms were filled with an excited chaos as friends ran to and fro, getting dressed up, helping others get ready, and finishing any necessary last minute touches. One by one, the girls were called down to the front lobby over the intercom as their dates arrived to pick them up. The lobby was packed full of students greeting each other and trying to figure how a corsage and boutonniere worked. Once the dates had paired up and everyone was ready, the buses were loaded and they headed off UCA’s campus to the banquet.

Upon arrival, we entered a large room filled with many tables and found our seats. The room had lights strung across the ceiling for nice mood lighting and we heard French music playing in the background. The tables were decorated with candles, black roses, and everyone’s favorite part: unlimited Martinelli’s sparkling cider. After we had found our tables, we lined up at the photo booth, where Mr. Lacey generously took photos of us all evening long. There were pictures of couples, friends, groups, and singles. After photos were taken, we sat down for the meal, where we had the option of two different pastas or pizza. Everyone ate the meal with the company of their friends. After dessert, students sat and chatted, took more pictures, and just enjoyed the formal evening away from campus. Overall, this year’s banquet was a success and we will all remember it for a long time.

## Journey to Bethlehem

by Julianna Luce

From Friday November 30 to December 2, there was an exciting event happening at the South Hill church. They were recreating Bethlehem for all to see and to experience. Its creative and authentic layout made it seem as if you were really there in the age of our Saviour’s birth. Between the Roman soldier’s shouts, the music of the Jewish dancers, and the chaos at the market place, everything was hustle and bustle.

Behind the scenes actors were scurrying about trying to get their costumes on in a timely manner. In the break room, volunteers were stuffing themselves with free delicious food and cookies.

Outside the church, many were lined up in the cold waiting for their turn to go through Bethlehem. Mothers, fathers, and children had all gathered to start their December off in this festive activity reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

This New Year, instead of thinking of receiving, I challenge you to think of giving. Think of all the things that you have been blessed with and are fortunate to have. Happy New Year!

## Last Door Standing

by Alondra Pena

Glitter, tape, hot glue, and doughnut-related quotes were all around! Staff and student workers were rummaging through the internet to find an adequate Christmas door decoration. This festive decoration contest definitely added to all the holiday excitement during the final weeks before Christmas.. In hopes of beating the previous years’ winning door, assembled by Molly Ahola, the staff and students definitely brought on their A-game. There were only a few doors finished within a week of the due date. The rest were either completed a few days before or on the deadline itself. You can only imagine the stress and anxiety the staff and their workers felt as time was running short!

The majority of the doors this year happened to be 3D. There was a lot of gossip through the halls as to who might have started the 3D trend and who pulled it off the best. The ones to decide are the students of UCA. Each of the staff members and students are sent an email containing a survey to determine which door conquered all . . . keeping in mind that it is all in good fun!

Friday, December 14, the emails were sent out and everyone started the long wait for the announcement of the winner. The door decorating contest of 2018 was a memorable one.



Photos by Alondra Pena

## JV basketball: it’s all about pizza

by Kamden Paul

The beginning of the season was a bit strange: for most sports you get around 10 practices before the first game, but for some reason there were only 2 actual practices for JV before the first game against Priest River. Although the team was definitely not ready for that game, they still picked up the win 57-34.

The practice the following morning was good--everyone was upbeat from the win. The practice was mostly focused on the team’s offense and ended with wind sprints which everyone always “loves.” But they are a necessary evil so the team is in condition to out hustle the other teams in our games.

In their first three games, JV had one loss to North Idaho Christian School. This unfortunate loss at home was followed by a trip to Sandpoint with the varsity girls and guys to play the Kootenai Thunder. All three teams came home with the win, everyone doing their part and giving their all.

After the game we were all hungry and discovered the small sack lunches the café gave us were not enough, so the team decided to get a pizza from Dominoes, and after an hour of waiting a glorious pizza was delivered and was gone before it could even get through the door. We watched the varsity games and cheered for them both. Then, afterwards, everyone was pretty happy because Principal Johnson got the girls’ varsity a pizza to share and the boys’ varsity also ordered a pizza.

The bus ride home was long, but it was a fun day of games and worth the trip. The bus didn’t get back to UCA till around 11:30 and almost every basketball player was very tired the next day and not ready for the day, but very ready for the next game.

## Staff of the Month

by Sasha Paago

This year the Student Council has started a new tradition of naming a Staff of the Month, perhaps to help staff members be more kind to students when they decide to give us another test on top of the other five we still have to study for.

The staff member is picked and nominated by the Student Council members. Each of the winning staff’s faces will be shown in a framed picture in the Ad building, announcing their achievement. To put the cherry on top, the Council has also made a sash which staff can wear if they win the award.

Look out, staff, you may be the next Staff of the Month if you push back that test date!



photo by Sasha Paago

December’s winner: Mrs. Kravig!



Braden Reitz shows he understands the concept of extra credit.

## Rockin' Rims

by Paul Tucker

The UCA gym finally got the main court basketball hoops installed. Not only are they functional, but they also look sweet! They are hung from the ceiling beams and include a motor system that can lift them up when they are not in use. They are very nice looking with yellow protective foam around the bottom of the backboard and new rims that feel phenomenal.

The hoops cost only an affordable \$16,000 that came from donations. They provide the opportunity to play on the main court, which both varsity teams are looking forward to immensely. One of the benefits offered by this is the court feeling much more spacious. There is also more room for fans on the side and actual dedicated court lines are easier for players and referees to see.

UCA now has a gym we can be even more proud of.

## The perils of being a village student

by Joelle Townsend

Almost all of the students here at UCA are dorm students, but there are about twenty-seven village students who brave the roads every day to get to school. Don't get me wrong, we village students are super lucky to be able to go home to our own beds every night and have Wi-Fi and get food made by our parents. But as the winter season comes around, driving conditions start to go downhill. Fog on the Palouse makes it hard to see and can stick to the roads and make icy conditions. Snow will also be coming soon, making conditions that much worse.

Another issue is that sometimes our cars don't always work the best. This can be quite perilous. For example, the other day I was driving up a rather steep grade when all of the sudden my engine cut out and I had to get off to the side of the road as quickly as possible. This not only stressed me out but caused me to be late to class which is never a good thing. So, village students, be careful driving this winter; and, dorm students, be grateful you get to be on campus even though sometimes it can be a pain.

## Girls' dorm halls

by Chloe Paago

Every Tuesday at 7:45, there are hall worships in the girls' dorm. Girls sit against the walls of their respective halls and listen to their RA's talk. Talks are normally about the RA's life, devotional book readings, worship talks, or how the hall saw Jesus that week. Hall worships are a way for the RA's to get personal with the residents on their halls.

During a quarter, a person can expect a hall party. Popcorn, ice cream, soda, and chocolate covered mangos are some food that can be found at a hall party. Activities such as watching a movie or burning papers also can be done during a hall party. Hall parties are a way to let the girls on that hall bond with each other.

The Girls' dorm has a tradition of decorating the halls. Decorating is a way to get into the festive spirit of Christmas. Girls scramble to room 243 to get the best decorations for their hall, and the rest of the night is spent cutting papers and hanging up lights and decorations. Senior Hall had a bright idea of using duct tape to hang up their lights. This plan worked great at first, but everything fell apart at night. As the night went on, Christmas lights that were hung, fell. The moral of the story is don't use duct tape to hang up Christmas lights.

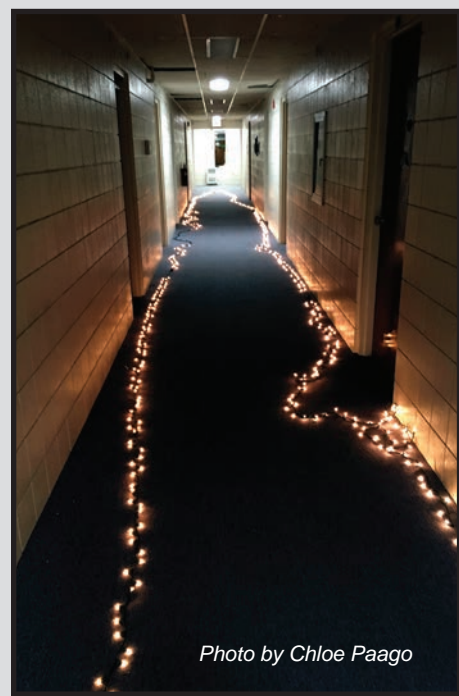


Photo by Chloe Paago

## Short Shorts Revival

by William Frohne

Spangle, commonly referred to as the Hawaii of Washington, has been attracting quite a community of beach bums. These unique characters gallivant around the school in shorts just centimeters within dress code. A sort of revival of short shorts has now caught on at UCA, and on any given day while walking the halls, you are sure to see at least a few gentlemen flaunting their perfectly tanned legs.



## Honor Band Auditions

by Sasha Paago

Every two years Walla Walla University holds a clinic for students from all around the conference. Don't think that anyone can attend. There's a rigorous audition process. Students practice for months learning all the excerpts of music along with the twelve major scales. This is not easy. The scales range from low octaves all the way to the high octaves that students never knew were in their range. The music needed for the audition was on a grade scale of four or above. This was not something an average player could play without much practice. They needed to work hard to get in and nail every high note, 16<sup>th</sup> runs, and dynamics.

That's not even the most challenging part. Students get super nervous during their auditions and just blank out. All the practices go down the drain in one instant. The thought of all your hard work being put on the line because you'll mess up and choke is nerve wracking.

The week Thanksgiving break started, all the auditions were due. Students finished their auditions and thought they did not have to worry about excerpts or scales anymore. They were wrong. On Tuesday afternoon, all the files for the auditions were mysteriously deleted. Therefore, all the players had to redo the deleted songs and scales they had finished. At the end of the week, everyone was able to get their auditions done, relieving them of the pressure once again.

Some students are victorious and all their hard work pays off when they're told they have made it. While some are disappointed because they were not accepted. Regardless, all students come out being better players than they were before.





## Wearable tech

by Jacob Welch

A new era is approaching. Technology populates everything we do today, aiding us in the simplest and most difficult tasks. Some call it a crutch, and some consider it a part of who we are.

One area technology is invading is the classroom. Computers, of course, have become commonplace, but faculty do their best to keep us off our phones. But what about the computers we now wear on our wrists? I'm talking about smartwatches.

Ever since Fossil really pushed the market forward in 2003, there have been many companies that have produced a smartwatch, the bigger names being Apple, Sony, LG, and Samsung. Now you can buy a watch that can do as much as a smartphone could 8 years ago, and some might as well be considered phones since you can put a SIM card in them and receive data and service just like you would on your phone. I myself am a smartwatch owner, and I love it and would never go back. It is too convenient to be able to access almost all of the material and data on your phone without pulling it out of your pocket.

All in all, a computer on your wrist is indeed the future, but with that future comes certain controversies. It presents yet another avenue for students to cheat in school. This is probably one of the biggest issues that comes along with this technological advancement. And it won't be long before smart glasses and other articles of clothing or fashion will arrive. Already Levi's has created a smart jacket that connects to your mobile device. The question at the end of the day is do we adopt the change or fight it for the sake of genuine hard work?

## The mysteries of the spoon

by Jonathan Joplin

There is a mysterious spoon that resides in room 209, the classroom that belongs to the school's upper-classman English teacher, Mr. Lacey. He says the spoon just appeared there one day, as if by magic, or maybe the Quiz Muse put it there to somehow guide lost souls to a better quiz score. Was it put there as a prank, or was it put there so people would ask questions? People certainly ask questions.

According to legend, the spoon has never been washed in the many decades it has resided in the jar upon Mr. Lacey's desk. Germs must infect the air that surrounds it, waiting for a victim to attack. Sometimes to help those germs in their work, Mr. Lacey will take the spoon out of the jar and wave it around as if he were waving a baton to conduct a band. Occasionally, he will also ring the spoon in the jar as if helping the spoon call out to another spoon for friendship.

There are many mysteries of the spoon, so many in fact that they have all yet to be discovered. But, perhaps, in the end, the spoon is just a cafeteria spoon left by a careless student?

## More pictures from the Fox



## Family Weekend

by Hannah Chilson

Upper Columbia Academy had its annual Family Weekend, starting on November 16. The weekend featured many different events to show parents what their children's lives are like here at UCA.

On Friday evening there was a Foundation One banquet for parents and students, followed by vespers in the church that featured Choraliers, Octet, and Orchestra. On Sabbath, church was in the gym, and on Saturday night there was the annual Amateur Hour. On Sunday morning, parents were able to meet their children's teachers in the gym and get an update about what is going on at UCA.

Directly after the weekend, parents and students went home to enjoy the first week-long Thanksgiving break in UCA history.

## AMATEUR HOUR



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and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

# Making changes

by Risa Jennings

I am quite new to UCA, having arrived after the start of the year. If you haven't moved schools mid-year, let me just tell you that it's not fun. It's not thrilling or exciting, especially if you've moved schools three times in the past four years.

When I came to UCA, I wasn't happy at all. I didn't want to be here and I wanted to go home. I was very antisocial and basically stayed in my dorm room as much as I could. I didn't try to make friends at first; I didn't try to get to know anybody. Since I had moved schools, I decided to change my outlook and my goals for my senior year: my goal would be to focus on grades and nothing else. Since then, that has changed. I have made friends and am happy that I went out of my comfort zone and changed my goals.

I used to spend as much time as I could in my dorm room, but now I'm only there to sleep. I love how friendly everyone is at UCA. It's very welcoming and made me feel a part of a family. This year will be a good year—I just know it. I also love dorm life. I go around and visit people in their rooms, and all the girls are so sweet and accepting. I have never been to a more welcoming and accepting community. I am looking forward to the rest of my senior year!



A mild Rec Ski day at Schweitzer called for Blake Johnson, Dylin Walker, and Evan Pierce to make some equipment modifications.



Students learn to take blood pressure so they can help in UCA Cares, the school's health outreach program

