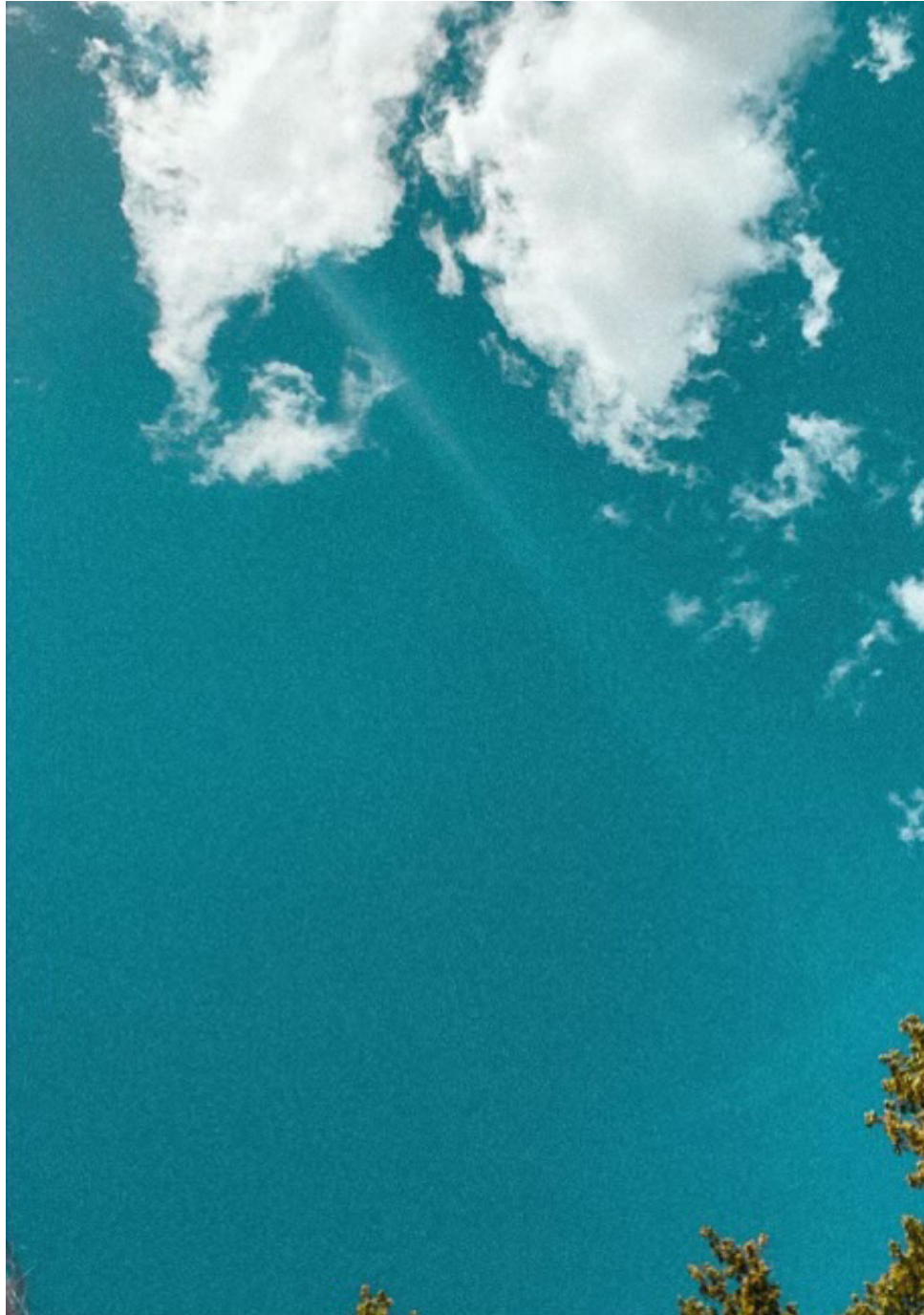


# ECHOES

MAY EDITION 2023 PUBLISHED BY STUDENTS OF UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY



p. 2 - 4

feature  
campus news  
national news

p. 5 - 8

spiritual life  
student highlight  
entertainment  
music

p. 9 - 12

athletics  
photo highlights  
backpage



# feature feature

by Hailey Fischer

## A UCA Farewell

As the school year ends, students and staff are preparing for a new phase. Seniors are graduating, and the rest are upgrading to a new grade level. One of the most devastating changes that is approaching is the departure of some of our beloved staff members. Earlier this spring, Dean Dani Rivera and Mrs. Whitmore left Upper Columbia Academy with a warm farewell from the students and faculty.

Other staff members that are concluding their final year at UCA are Dr. Pierce, Mrs. Fleck, Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Lersbak, and the taskforce workers. In addition, Mrs. Allison will no longer officially be part of the UCA team since she is taking over the bakery program. All these treasured

staff members are entering a new chapter.

"I will miss working with students on a daily basis" remarked Mrs. Hess on leaving the Study Lab. "My favorite part of working in the Study Lab has been helping students meet their academic goals."

Dr. Pierce also recounted some of her favorite memories: "students hanging out in my classroom...talking about important and unimportant things, [and] listening to Owen and Ethan fight about who my favorite Hickok is (it's Avery)."

May God be with all these wonderful staff members as they begin a new adventure.

# campus news

by Jonathan Haeger

## campus news

### UCA Farm in Annual Farmers' Market

For most activities, the UCA campus is a closed system, where a proportionately small number of items enter and exit the campus. The largest exception to this is the Farm Stand. The Farm Stand sells fresh foods like lettuce, tomatoes, and other vegetables, as well as sweets like cinnamon rolls and cookies. For the past few seasons, the Farm Stand has had the opportunity to take part in the local Spokane Farmers' Market.

To give students a chance to experience the event,

this year the Market will be brought to the UCA Campus on May 30th. Johnny Kershner, Head of Farm Operations, is encouraging students to participate in the event. They are looking to sell artwork, plants, crafts, or other things and hope to have students perform music for the event.

This will be the only day of the market where all students will be on campus. This is a unique opportunity that does not arise often. Make sure to set your calendars for May 30th so you do not miss it.

### Jr. & Sr. Banquet

As the end of the school year approaches, the juniors and seniors of UCA were given an opportunity to spend time together one last time. Hosted by the junior class, students were first transported to the Upper Columbia Conference Office, where they had a meal of creamy tomato pasta, salad, various fruits, and other small appetizers. Following the meal, students were given time to take pictures and socialize.

Junior Class President Micah Alvarado gave a farewell

speech, thanking the seniors for their leadership, and wishing them a successful future.

Following the speech, the UCA Vocal Octet performed "Friendship" by The Real Group. The students then loaded back onto the buses, where they then went to the Davenport Hotel in Downtown Spokane. The reception was held in the Marie Antoinette Dining Hall, where various desserts were served, a fitting close to the event.



# national news

by Bella Smith

## 77 Days and Counting Underwater

Joseph Dituri is currently in the process of breaking the world record for the longest time spent underwater. As of Tuesday, May 16, he is on day 77 of the 100 days he plans to spend in a lagoon in Key Largo, Florida. This will surpass the original world record of 73 days. He states on Twitter, "My goal from day 1 has been to inspire generations to come, interview scientists who study life undersea and learn how the human body functions in extreme environments." Dituri is currently living in a pod the size of two king beds, with a kitchen, toilet, sleeping area, and microwave. Other than being

trapped underwater, his life is pretty much normal. He wakes up, makes breakfast, works out, and then teaches his classes virtually. Mr. Dituri talks about the annoyance of the sound of air entering and exiting from his pod constantly. Another issue is the lack of sunshine that he receives. To counter-balance that, he has his family at home send him pictures of the sun. Along with that, he has constant visitors, whether it is students, family, public, or his medical team. His medical team examines him every week to ensure that the pressure is not negatively affecting his body.

national news



## A Slingshot Saved a Life

A 13-year-old brother is credited for saving his 8-year-old sister's life with a slingshot. After the incident, police released that the 8-year-old was in her backyard picking mushrooms when a boy around 17 came up to the backyard. He proceeded to cover the little girl's mouth in an attempt to kidnap her. However, her brother had other plans, and grabbed his slingshot. He began shooting the 17-year-old and was able to hit him in the head and chest. That caused

him to flee the scene and take cover at a nearby gas station where police would later find him. He was easily identifiable because of the slingshot wounds. Police took him into custody, and he was later sentenced by attorneys. He was charged with one count of attempted kidnapping/child enticement, one count of attempted assault to do great bodily harm and one count of assault and battery.

# spiritual life

## spiritual

by Angie Buursma

## The Impact of S.W.O.P.

As we venture closer to the end of the school year, life here at UCA starts to become more real. We begin to reflect on the past year; all the friendships we made, the drama we've been involved in, and maybe even a school event or two.

One of my favorite school events would have to be Student Week of Prayer (S.W.O.P.). I just loved having a week where we directed our focus from school to God. When I asked a few seniors how S.W.O.P. impacted them, I got a lot of different responses. The ones who had spoken during that week said that they really loved the retreat and described how it brought them all closer together. Each student's answer had a slightly different twist to the others; for example, one of them said that they loved

seeing the process of where people started over the retreat, compared to the result. Another remarked on how much it meant to her to be able to hear how her talk impacted the lives of others. Yet another one voiced how much the retreat influenced her walk with God and helped her prepare for her talk. I then asked the same question to other seniors who were onlookers. Some loved to hear other people's stories and be able to relate to them. Some said that they just loved having a more God-focused week, while others just loved how peaceful the music was. One even expressed how it did not really have much impact. Whatever your take on S.W.O.P. is, just remember that God wants to be a part of your life too, so let Him in if you have not already.



## Quote of the Month

"There is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."  
-Amanda Gorman



# student highlight student highlight

by Sofia Pinell

## A Change for UCA? ASB Officer Interview

In an interview with Paola Gomez, a sophomore at UCA, she describes her aspirations for next year as she serves as chaplain for ASB. Here are some questions that were asked.

*Any creative innovative ideas to keep the student body involved and in the loop with ASB events and decisions?*

"Hopefully next year [we] will be able to post more on the ASB Instagram page, I would love to make a suggestion box (specifically for spiritual activities) so I can have an idea of what people are struggling with and other activities that UCA will enjoy but that

will also draw us closer to God."  
*What is one thing you hope to specifically improve on campus?*

"One thing I'm hoping to improve next year is the communication between students and the ASB team, we want people to get involved in activities and always feel welcome to participate in various events."

*Four things on your bucket list?*

"Get closer to God and be a light for others."  
"Travel around the world"  
"Go sky diving."  
"Learn how to play an instrument."



## ASB Officers 2023-2024

President—Torin Smith

Vice President—Eric Olson

Chaplain—Paola Gomez

Historian—Talia Aitchison

Treasurer—Tyler Holm

Musician—Megan Christensen

Secretary—Brysen Ermshar

Sergeant at Arms—Caleb Brower



## Don't Just Sit There! Start painting.

Joanna Enikeev, a sophomore at UCA, decided to join oil painting during 4th quarter. This was her first time trying oil painting, and she immediately fell in love with it. She loves the way the paint blends and the wide variety of possibilities she has with it. When she started her portrait, she was happy with her sketch but scared to start painting as she did not know what to expect. Luckily, it turned out so much better than she thought it would, and she had so much fun painting it.

# entertainment entertainment

by Sarah Cole

## Life Tips

Here is some advice you didn't ask for, but I am giving you anyway!

I challenge you to read this without thinking, "Oh those are some good ideas" and then forget about them. Try and find a piece of advice you want to follow.

1. Be a leader, do not be a boss.
2. Practice makes better, not perfect. Perfection is not achievable, but for good reason.
3. Not earning that A+ or 4.0 is not the worst thing. You will see.
4. Always wash a bowl of oatmeal immediately after finishing it. (or at least start soaking it!)
5. Most times, it is not what you do, but why and how you do it.
6. Talk to or text that person. You are overthinking the outcome.
7. Never let the chaos of others infect your peace. In other words, don't get emotionally caught up in other people's problems.
8. This too, shall pass. Don't let anxiety convince you that you cannot get through hard things.
9. Don't let your insecurities affect the way you treat others.
10. Be wise as to what you listen to, especially when you are feeling down. Various kinds of music can change your mood: some for better, some for worse.



## Summer Tunes

Speaking of music, summer is just around the corner, and so is the time for listening to happy, upbeat, warm-weather tunes!

Here is a playlist of songs that feel like summer to me:



# music music

by Megan Christensen

## UCA Spring Concert

Friday, May 19, the UCA Music department gave its final concert of the year. Many of the different music groups participated in this event: band, orchestra, symphony orchestra, choir, and choraliers. They performed several songs from the Scandinavia tour as well as some new ones prepared specifically for this event. The evening went spectacularly well; the entire Spokane Valley church was filled with people. Near the end, Mr. Knipple and Mr. Anderson were, to their surprise, presented with pictures signed by all the Scandinavia trip participants.

This final concert was very impactful and emotional for many seniors, for it was their last performance as UCA students.

This was expressed in a back-and-forth conversation between UCA seniors Tatum Durbin and Elizabeth Blackwelder, "I'm definitely tearing up." "It's ok, so am I; I almost started crying." Overall, this was a great concert and one of the best this year. Having so many people show up and support this part of UCA was extremely appreciated. It was a great end to a wonderful year.



# athletics

by Ethan Hickok

## Flipping Awesome

Homeshow is a fun event where ACRO puts all the moves and routines that they have been learning and practicing throughout the year into one final show. Typically, the show is done to honor the seniors and send them off with a good social event and memory. This year's ACRO Soul homeshow was amazing. The show ran smoothly, and most of the moves were successfully pulled off. Some of the highlights were Makenna Shirinzadeh and Lyndi Brenton doing their solo performances with the

aerial hoop and silks. The boy's and girl's routines were also fun skits to watch. We also were able to have two doubles routines, Jaden Michaelis with Madison Threadgill, and Abby Young with Avery Hickok. This year ACRO's theme was "we are warriors." They also were able to honor many different war veterans from Vietnam, Korean, and even from World War II in their routine last week. Finally, ACRO had awards for all the Seniors that were leaving.



## Fun in the Sun

On May 11th UCA held their annual Spring Picnic. It was a nice, sunny, and most of all, sweltering day. All the classes took turns running in different distance events such as the 100m, 200m, four by 200m, and the mile. UCA also held a five-kilometer race which is about three miles. Isaac

Acker came in first with Jaden Michaelis and Dawson Shipowick following him close behind. One of the most competitive parts of Spring Picnic is the team games. The Senior class came in first place for both the kickball and volleyball tournaments. Many people also got the opportunity to

participate in other non-running activities such as the broad jump, softball throw, and shotput. The best part of Spring Picnic is all the fun games, such as spike ball, that people get to play. Another highlight was the long naps in the sun or shade. The results of the events are listed below.

100m:

Girl: Cassie Fleck

Guy: Tanner Lowe

200m:

Girl: Gabrielle Townsend

Guy: Nathan Coon, Spencer Shipowick

4x200m:

Girl: Senior Class

Guy: Senior Class

1600m:

Girl: Katie Bunn

Guy: Isaac Acker

5 K:

Girl: Tatum Durbin

Guy: Isaac Acker





# backpage

## backpage

by Tanner Duffy

## We Have Always Been Here

I would like to take you back through the moments that made the year. At first, I tried to sift through every massive event that happened, and the memories associated with them. This article will hopefully bring back wonderful memories from big moments to small ones. We made it. Finally. I don't know about you, but somehow this year dragged on for eternity and went by in the blink of an eye all at the same time. I guess I just don't want it to end yet. Maybe, like me, you sat in Dr. Pierce's room during the first few weeks of school as she announced that there was a quiz. You totally read the chapters, right? Word of advice: you should never say that you didn't read something in class, because she will give you the evilest death stare, (you know what I'm talking about, Dr. Pierce). Once again, multiple new students confused two men whose faces age like Paul Rudd: Mr. Andregg and Mr. Spano. The latter of whom when he walks through a doorway is majestically declared the "Silver Bullet" by Cody.

Mr. A and Mr. K are my favorite duo on campus. Whenever they are in a room together, it always ends in complete and utter chaos as they die laughing at each other's jokes. And you always know they are having the best day ever when Mr. K tries to hide his teary eyes after a concert or when Mr. A starts doing his little happy dance (if you know you know). Two of our amazing English teachers are always wonderfully mysterious. The perfect example being when Mrs. Kramer quietly took the stand at assembly with a subtle smirk and proclaimed in French the theme of the Winter banquet to the excited (and frankly impressed) whispers of the students. Of course, no one can hide from Mrs. Riffel's (or Rizzel's) infectious laughter. Being in the presence of her when she experiences one of her daily epiphanies accompanied by a profound "AAAAHHH!" is something everyone must experience. Every day the Gladdings always have a smile on their faces. Mr. Gladding's Jake Gyllenhaal-esque face is always filled with pride at the success

of every student, such as when Asher brought the house down at SWOP with this line: "The greatest lie of the devil is that you need to get rid of your sin. The greatest truth of God is that you've never had to."

Every time Mrs. Gladding's kids, Evie and Luke, came onto campus, everyone said hi and gave them high fives, truly making them feel like they belong in this family. Every bus ride with Mr. Hartman is always a blast. How can anyone not love the safety briefing? It gets as much hype as Taylor Swift. There is absolutely nothing that this man cannot do. He is our resident superhero, always willing to help any of us no matter what. At vespers and SWOP this campus comes alive, and Adam agrees. "My favorite moments are always SWOP," he says, "It's always amazing to see these students on fire for God." Even though he (jokingly) hates us all equally I think he might just love us a little bit too. Seemed like we had a baptism every other weekend! There was always someone else who had decided to give their life to God and this just shows that He is at work here. These could not be done without Pastor Sid and Pastor Fred. Pastor Sid, always accompanied by a chorus of "WOW" from the audience, and P. Freddy somehow able to stare into your very soul just through eye contact in Bible class. Every baptism brought tears to their eyes as they watched their kids grow up. PJ agrees that these are the best moments. We should aspire to be like him, always managing to "Keep looking up," even in the darkest of times. I didn't visit him often enough this year and I regret it. Maybe I'm just overwhelmed by his coolness. And to all the other members of the staff and faculty, we could not have had such an amazing year without all of you. And to all of us, the students, we made this year our year, because every single one of us is a part of this community. We are UCA. Look forward to the summer and live in the moment, but don't forget what brought you there. And to the seniors who are moving on, we will be sobbing at graduation. But we know that we must all move on because we know that what we believe is true, and

### RANDOM QUOTES

"I'm gonna run with scissors!" -Alex Hermanson

"I can get rabies and bite you!" -Susanna Olson

"I could draw this better with eyes closed...and oven mitts." -Aaron Byrd

"You can suck bread out of wheat." -Sayler Jordan

"I have a mom. It's more than most Disney characters." -Claireese Smith

"I thought Barbie was a species." -Caleb Crawford

"I'm immune to things you've never even heard of." -Eddie Dunfield

"I'm lowkey afraid of disabled children. No not like that!" -Dean Martin