

KOINONEMA

1605 47TH Ave NE

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The official University Christian Union Newsletter is back yet again for the 2017-2018 school year! What does Koinonema mean you ask? Not to be confused with Koinonia, which is the Greek word for fellowship, Koinonema means communication between brethren. The purpose for the Koinonema newsletter is to be a source of communication between past and present members of UCU. Look forward to this annual tradition with updates from the current residents of UCU!

Fall Quarter 2017

Fall Retreat

By Joshua Shackelford

Coming into this last Fall Retreat as the new Men's House President, I was worried. UCU had gained a lot of new members, and I've never been good with people. However, my fears proved groundless as the people I got to know at Lakeside Bible Camp that weekend were the people who later became my classmates, roommates, and partners in crime, and getting to know them at Fall Retreat made that happen!

The UCU Fall Retreat is an amazing time to take one more vacation before school starts again. We get to hang out with our old friends and meet new friends, all while interacting with the Word through our discussions. We always invite an amazing speaker so that the weekend can not only be centered around finding new friends but also on building the foundations of a Christian community.

Fall Retreat plays a pivotal role in the cohesion of UCU, and I couldn't imagine starting my school year off differently.

All-Hallow's Eve At UCU

By Conley Wright

*'Twas the night of Halloween,
And all through UCU,
Every boy, girl, and Furby,
Was ready for something new.
They donned their robes,
And their dresses and hats,
And decked the place out,
With pumpkins and bats.
The snacks were brought out,
Cookies, chips, and pop,
The musics was turned up,
And we didn't let it stop.
The dancing began,
It was quite a sight,
Cinderella danced with Supergirl,
And the Ketchup and Mustard were quite a fright.
The DJ was a Jedi Knight,
With lightsabers held high,
He only stopped grooving,
When Darth Vader dropped by.
We danced and we sang,
And we had a swell time,
As for me I'm just glad,
That I got this poem to rhyme!*

Contents:

<i>Fall Quarter 2017</i>	
Fall Retreat	1
Halloween Poem	1
<i>Winter Quarter 2018</i>	
Service Project	2
Week of Man	2
Week of Man: Running Up	2
Java Night	2
<i>Spring Quarter 2018</i>	
Week of Woman	3
<i>From the Residents</i>	
A Day in the Men's House	3
A Day in the Women's House	4
Monday Night Bible Study	5
Small Groups	5
Intermural Sports	5
Movie Night Part I	6
Movie Night Part II	6
Most Likely Too	7



Winter Quarter 2018

Service Project

By Emily Black

One of the most memorable experiences I had at UCU this year, was the service project we did during winter quarter. We all met up in the Women's house dining room, and made paintings for an organization that would distribute them to rehabilitation homes. I personally love making art, so I was extremely excited that UCU was doing something creative together. Probably close to 15 or 16 people participated that morning. It was quite entertaining and different as everyone had different art abilities. Everyone was helping each other out and a lot of fun discussions took place. The project was a great escape from the normal quiet studying that occurs on Saturday mornings and afternoons. It was a good feeling to be together with everyone doing something creative for the local community. Even though everyone had different skillsets, the art turned out quite nice! It was a blast even to those who don't normally draw and paint and really brought everyone together. It's experiences like this one that remind me why I love being a part of UCU and why I always look forward to the moments we spend as a community.

Week of Man

By Rueben Madewell

Week of Man is a time of comradery, fun, and a healthy dose of recklessness. Everything from freezing nights in the shed to eating raw eggs was done with other UCU men. You suffered together and bonded together as men. Of course laughing at each other as you cry from eating habanero peppers or

scoffing at the weak as they can't handle the root-beer mile is a must! But never in all those unsavory experiences did you have to do anything alone, and you end up enjoying each one. Suffering together for the sake of manliness.

Even the competitive aspect of the week, trying to be the most glorious man, was all in good fun as Keenan and I battled it out. Between baking and tonsures and pummeling each other during Fight Night, we still laughed about it all as friends rather than glare at each other as competitors. All of the UCU men, whether they were really pushing to win or just participating for the sake of the brotherhood enjoyed each other and all of the unusual activities that came with Week of Man.

Week of Man this year upheld the glorious tradition of being a sometimes silly (sometimes serious) way to prove your manliness and, above all else, a strong way to build community in the Men's House. Each activity was completely optional, but highly encouraged as they allowed a way for the men to leave their comfort zones and really interact with the other men in ways that you're not normally able to. The entire week was a whirlwind of laughter, testosterone, and glorious competition and was a fantastic way to make a few memories and more than a few friends.

Week of Man: Running Up

By Keenan Boudon

What better way to bond with fellow housemates than through the tradition known as Week of Man? This being my first year at UCU, I was looking forward to all the testosterone-filled festivities except the rootbeer mile. "What a dumb activity," I thought to myself fall quarter. "Nobody's going to rope me into doing that one!" Now a mile and four rootbeers later, I'm glad I joined my comrades in that feat of self-

inflicted suffering. All the other activities proved memorable, most particularly fight night. All in all, it was the highlight of my time here so far, and I couldn't have ended up with a finer bunch to partake in the week's craziness with!

Java Night

By Garrett Esko

Java Night is one of the most exciting and fun events UCU has to offer, both for residents and their friends and families. Though similar to a typical talent show, Java Night is really best described as an opportunity for the members of the houses to show off their personalities and interests. We allow participants to do pretty much whatever they want for their act, and people have taken advantage of this in amazing, creative, and hilarious ways. Some choose to show off their talents by playing music, singing songs, or reading poetry they have written. Others try to make the audience laugh through silly skits and antics. But the heart and soul behind it all is a desire to entertain and to show off. The participants clearly enjoy themselves just as much – if not more – than the audience. If doing something more serious, they throw all of their passion and creativity into it, working and practicing late into the night to perfect their technique. If doing something silly, they laugh along with the rest of us, and create a story they'll tell their friends for years to come. And regardless of what they are doing, it is clear that it comes from the heart, from their personality, and from a desire to show off who they are. I have personally enjoyed myself at every Java Night so far, and encourage you to attend next year if you are able, and if you are a resident, to participate!

Spring Quarter 2018

Week of Woman

By Martha Quigg

Week of Woman is a cut-throat, competitive weeklong race to be... crowned the most womanly woman of the house! However, many acts of kindness such as taking a roomie out to coffee, volunteering with a charity were also included to balance what could be the most trying week of one's college career. Through the week, housemates participated in the pursuit of womanhood in a variety of ways. Wearing a prom dress to class, proposing to a men's house member, stealing the Men's House sword or ringing their bell, or posting a funny meme on the house Facebook page are just a few of the ways our house grew our womanlyness.

The week began on Monday with a movie night after business meeting. "She's the Man" played while licorice and Bugels were munched on by seven gung-ho competitors.

Tuesday evening featured the highest turnout with an array of mocktails. The four, two-woman teams battled against one another while presenting superlative drinks - the saltiest, the sweetest, and grossest drinks I have ever tasted. (I am the defending 'worst taste' winner from 2015, though I supposed I didn't actually taste our 'butterfly kiss'.) The drinks had names such as 'taste of the world', 'of the sea', 'chunky funky' I and II, 'sugar crash', 'almond roca rush', and my personal favorite, 'the apology note'. Our judges were the brave first-years Conley, Colby, and Reuben - who took in the drinks with straight faces and the fewest of words, quite the contrast from our expressive, boisterous judges in previous years.

On Wednesday, Whitney Hosten got her wish. Six women perfected and performed 'I wanna dance with somebody', wearing our best interpretation of 80's attire featuring mismatched socks, high ponytails, and for one, a Darth Vader costume.

Thursday's activity was aimed at treasuring the memories made through the year. Several women participated in the scrapbooking time by submitting pictures to print or actually making pages to document the year's events.

On Friday, with much ceremony and grandeur, our very own President, Kira Muerillo was crowned 'Woman of the House'. Her name shall (eventually) be engraved on the house plaque to be remembered in the long line of Week of Woman Champions. Congrats to all participants and special thanks to our social chair and sec-treas, Sarah R. and Katie for the time they put into organizing the weeklong event!

From the Residents

A Day in the Men's House

By Kira Murillo

5:00am – In a house of 26 men, you never know what the guys are up to at this hour. Either way, the men's house president, Thomas makes sure each and every man is up at 5 am sharp. One by one they go into the dining room to say "good morning" to me. If one of them doesn't show up, their house manager, Keenan assigns them more chores. After greeting me, they're allowed to go back to whatever they were doing.

5:00am to 11am –RISE AND THRIVE! The guys get up as they're ready to begin their day. To the lucky guys who have an 8:30 class, they are

usually the ones you find in the kitchen first. You see quite a few different breakfast options as each one of them comes by. Whether or not they take the time and effort to make some extravagant, 5-star breakfast or they barely have time to grab an apple, if they want to be on time, all depends on which UCU man you see.

Before heading to class is the perfect time for the men to take time by themselves to be with God. They read their Bibles, study their devotionals and send out a quick prayer before taking off to their first class.

At some point during this time, you'll see the vice president, Taylor wandering around, probably finding a place to study organic chemistry. You'll question whether he just woke up or he hasn't gone to bed yet. To this day, it's still a mystery no one will ever be able to solve.

11am to 1pm – If their schedules work out nicely, a handful of the men are able to make it back to one of the two lunches prepared by one of our cooks. They always let the ladies grab food first before they do. At lunch, they're able to catch up and check in with one another. Sometimes if it's warm enough, warm as in not rainy, the guys will toss a frisbee back and forth or kick around a soccer ball.

1pm to 4pm – After a solid lunch break, a few of the men head to their next couple classes. It's not surprising to find at least one guy passed out on the sofa, exhausted from staying up all night to finish his paper. The social chair, Conley, has probably just finished his 5th cup of coffee and is in the process of making his 6th. At least a couple men pass by their sacred sword, dusting it off, checking for fingerprints, making sure none of the ladies from the women's house has touched it. The whole process

takes at least an hour to inspect and clean with a box of Q-tips.

4pm to 5:30pm - While some spend this time studying for calculus at Odegaard Library, others may head to the IMA or go for a quick run. You might also see a few of the men playing guitar, piano and/or the cajon in preparation for worship practice.

Sometimes if there are enough men back and homework can be put off for a little bit longer, Colby, the secretary/treasurer invites the guys to play Fortnite with him.

5:30pm – Every guy’s favorite time, dinner time. The goal is always who can eat the most. The wait before they can get seconds is the most painful 15 minutes of the day. They remain in their seats, staring at the food, looking like Pavlov’s dogs, ready to race for seconds on the 45.

8:00pm – After knocking out a few hours of homework, well, at least we hope they haven’t been watching YouTube videos all day, “Bro Time” begins. It’s an hour of intense working out that takes place on third deck. The goal is to out-do one another with push-ups, pull-ups and arm/leg wrestling as they figure out who’s the strongest in the men’s house.

9:00pm – Once “Bro Time” is over, the men of UCU, in their drenched (with sweat) muscle tees all eat a handful of raw spinach and cook up enough eggs to feed the Five Thousand like written in the Bible, but instead of Jesus having enough bread and fish to feed five thousand people, it’s the men cooking up enough eggs for five thousand people but somehow it only gets split between 5 to 10 of them.

9:30pm to 11pm – One of two different realizations happen to each man in the house. It’s the moment where they face the reality of whether

or not they will be able to go to bed at a reasonable hour. To those who have been studying and doing homework all day, they can finally breathe and take it easy the rest of the night. To those who have been watching Netflix all day, this is the moment of sheer panic. But of course, all the men here always go to bed at a reasonable time knowing they’re going to have to greet the women’s house president in the morning.



A Day in the Women’s House

By Thomas Weldy

4:00AM: The women’s house president Kira wakes up early to get some work done before she is berated by her many responsibilities. During this time, she composes herself for the strenuous task of enforcing the upcoming shower routine.

5:30AM: The complicated showering schedule begins. Each woman is given the union agreed 30 minutes to shower. Even with this long shower time, Kira must monitor the shower lengths, and shut off the hot water if

verbal warnings don’t work. This has led to discussion of turning the chapel into an extra bathroom.

7:00AM: The women gather together for their daily secretive meeting, in which they coordinate their outfits. They could never forgive themselves if they committed the heinous crime of wearing the same outfit.

7:30AM: After the meeting they go about their separate ways, often to get breakfast or finish some homework. During this time the women conceal their bizarre behaviors before the men wake up.

8:30AM- 3:45PM: During this time the women attend class to further their learning. The responsible women of UCU, *always* show up to each lecture 10 minutes early, and provide 100 percent of their attention to the professor. They would *never* be so rude as to fall asleep in class! They let the men do that...

3:50-5:00PM: This is a time of relaxation after the long day of studying. During this time, they embrace their inner sloth. They can often be found slouched over in bed watching *Pretty Little Liars* for the hundredth time.

5:30PM: Comprises the time for dinner; a time in which they have the most pleasant of conversations and employ their best etiquette, including: sitting up straight, napkins in laps, and seeing who can construct the tallest butter tower.

6:30PM: The committee to combat Men’s house pranks meets. All the women are invited to attend, but only Sarah White and Sarah Rodgers attend. At the meeting they discuss ways to prevent/retaliate against the men’s house pranks; however, they seem to never be able to acquire

support from the rest of the women's house.

7:00PM: As one unit, the women's house spends the next hour gruelingly cleaning the house to remove every speck of dirt. They must maintain that effortlessly clean look.

8:00PM: The women head upstairs to their rooms to do the most important homework of painting each other's nails and discussing the latest fashion trend.

10:00PM: In preparation for there early shower routine, the women trickle into bed at a reasonable time.



Monday Night Bible Study

By Taylor Moreno

Upon gaining admittance to UW, I was immediately filled with amazement and joy. However, when I contemplated what coming to Seattle really meant, I started to worry. I was about to leave the family, friends, and church I'd known my whole life. I worried that, without all of these amazing influences, I might lose track of the important things in life.

Fortunately, I found UCU. I found it to be a place full of many amazing people who inspire and encourage me as friends and as fellow Christians. I also found it to be a place of many traditions and customs - some fun, some silly, and some serious. Among the serious are our Monday Night Bible Studies, or "MNBS."

Every MNBS, we begin with a time of worship and sing together as a Christian community. After worship, we have someone (whether MNBS team member, alumni, special guest, or even house VP) give a presentation from God's word which relates to us as UCUers. We then close with a song, and we often split into small groups to talk about the lesson we heard.

Although MNBS is no substitute for church, I think it's a good way to observe the passage "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" Hebrews 10:24-25a. As students at UW, we have many pressures and responsibilities which surround us. With all these pressures, it becomes all too easy to forget that we are not just students of UW - we are students of God's word. We are here at University Christian Union so we can have a community which builds up our faith and keeps us accountable. We thus "assemble ourselves together" every MNBS for edification, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

All in all, UCU has been a great influence on my and so many others' walk with God and MNBS has been a very large part of that.

Small Groups

By Garrett Esko

At the UCU, we do our best to foster a community that celebrates and develops Christian values. To this end, we establish Bible study small groups throughout the year. Every Monday night, after a worship session and word from a speaker, the men and women of UCU come together to discuss the word and pray together. These coed small groups help further our understanding of God's Word, and give us goals to strive for in our journey of life. However, they are also a great way to get to know your fellow residents, discuss your daily life, and receive prayer for anything you need. We encourage residents to pray for each other during small groups, and to continue to do so throughout the week. In addition, we also offer to connect residents together in less official weekly small groups. These groups are totally led by the house members themselves. Each leader gets to decide what they want their small group to be like: what they want to study, whether they want to enroll the group in some sort of activity, and what kinds of conversation to foster. In the same way the Monday night small groups do, these small groups help develop Christian knowledge and understanding, and provide a safe place for residents to discuss their private lives. Personally, I have been extremely thankful for both of these kinds of small groups while I've lived here. I believe that they have and will continue to play a large role in the development of good Christian leaders and role models here at the UCU.

Intermural Sports

By Daniel Reeber

Since the Dawn of Time, all mankind has participated in noble sporting events. Indeed, the Ancient Greeks themselves organized great games and festivals to celebrate these

magnificent events of sport, strength and skill. They, of course, are utterly outclassed by UCU, because we have ultimate Frisbee.

Every quarter, the most noble and excellent Social Chair of the Men's House signs the houses up for intramural sports with the UW, with usually one men's team and one co-rec team. These great participants then venture off into the wilds of the campus, regardless of weather. Indeed, it is not unusual for these athletes to come back soaked after a game in the rain.

Despite these challenges, there is never a lack of spirit among the contestants at UCU. It is often a normal sight after a long game, particularly one with the aforementioned bad weather, to see a great table laden with saves from that night's dinner, as the athletes, victorious or no, celebrate in great cheer and spirit with one another.

As of this spring quarter, we are currently on UCU's sport of both choice and excellence: the glorious, incredible, amazing: Ultimate Frisbee. This particular sport is traditionally much anticipated by the houses, with many practices being held throughout the year in anticipation of the coming of Spring, and with it, the glory of Frisbee. We are fortunate to have many adepts at this arcane and noble sport at the houses, for there are few sports of such honor and skill offered at UW.

The intramurals are an ancient and great house tradition: and with those

we currently have playing, it's likely to be one for a while to come!

Movie Nights: Part I

By Jordon Lewis

I have been hosting over the past four-ish months, and I am glad to say they have all been a blast. I have been doing a Marvel Cinematic Universe Marathon for the past few months: we watch one to two movies a weekend. The point is to get everyone ready for Avenger: Infinity War this April 27th. I am truly blessed to live a house where people love movies just as much as me. These guys and gals are a blast to hang out with. One Saturday, a bunch of us put money in to get pizzas while we watch Avengers 1. We have also have gone to the theaters to go see all the recent superhero releases like Thor Ragnarok, Justice League, and Black Panther and finally Avengers: Infinity War. There will be 13 people coming to Avengers: Infinity War from UCU and I am grateful I get to share this moment with them.

Movie Nights: Part II

By Connor Yeutter

In theory if you live in the same house with a bunch of people it should be pretty easy to get a movie planned. After all, if we live in one place how hard can it be to get everyone together? It may not be as hard as getting the Avengers assembled but it is still a challenge. The typical UCU movie night takes place on a Friday or Saturday night. There are certain fundamental steps that should be followed when making a UCU movie night happen.

Step 1: Decide on what to watch. Sometimes you're horrified that someone hasn't seen all the Star Wars movies and sometimes you want to share a fun TV show that's not well known. Other times you're just really hyped for Infinity War to come out (cough, Jordon, cough). No matter what deciding is where you start.

Step 2: Reserve a space in one of the two TV rooms using a designated whiteboard in either house. TV rooms are prime real estate you gotta grab them before someone else does or else you might have to wait a week.

Step 3: It's movie night so start recruiting; persuasion can be necessary at times; especially considering a long week of school and homework.

Step 4: Post your advertising pitch on EPIC one of our House Facebook pages. Multiple posts may be required because people can lose track of time and need their phone to buzz with a nice GIF from the chosen movie.

Step 5: Take a cue from the politicians: the single most successful and reliable way to get the people of UCU to come to a movie is to go door to door and visit people in their rooms. Sometimes people need to know what a show is all about.

It may take some effort but in the end a movie night isn't just about watching a movie, it's about bringing UCU together.

KOINONEMA is a non-profit newsletter published by Emily Gilbert and Joshua Shackelford for UCU alumni and residents. Articles are written by current UCU residents. For questions or comments, contact joshpaulshackelford@gmail.com



Emily Gilbert



Joshua Shackelford

UCU's Most Likely to...

By Joshua Shackelford and Emily Gilbert

Be a super-fan of The Flash
 Be found sitting on one specific couch
 Eat tofu and like it
 Go to all the UW basketball games
 Form a coup against the Men's House
 Have an alias as a mild-mannered reporter
 Become a Human rights lawyer
 Find the best Christian memes
 Become a singing sensation
 Be a good time
 Be on the Olympic water polo team
 Build the best bridges
 Bring a big suitcase home for one day
 Become a police officer
 Make the best chocolate chip cookies
 Have the best sleep schedule
 Steal stuff from the Men's House
 Help steal stuff from the Men's House
 Host a rave in the Krypt
 Have a serious conversation with you at dinner
 Destroy the world as a "prank"
 Coach the first UCU E-Sports team
 Write the next (clean) Game of Thrones
 Say thanks to Alli
 Distribute propaganda to the masses
 Be a one-man symphony
 Fake his way into teaching gifted children
 Pretend to be other people
 Drink sparkling cider straight from the bottle
 Run around the world
 Eat a dozen eggs in one sitting
 Be the next Bear Grylls in New Zealand
 Collect all the Infinity Stones
 Get married right after college
 Be good with the ladies
 Blow up the Men's House
 Cook a lamb shank
 Comment on your Facebook post
 Take a vow of silence
 Build a spaceship
 Pretend to be a crow... or raptor
 Get swole
 Invent the AI that will destroy the world
 Go competitive Salsa dancing
 Play video games with his feet
 Never sleep again
 Stay up late working

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 Christa Mattocks
 Elly Cashdollar
 Emily Black
 Emily Gilbert
 Jessica Lee
 Joy Clark
 Katie Roetcisoender
 Kira Murillo
 Mariel Papenfus
 Martha Quigg
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