You may have heard the roar of noisemakers and stadium horns around campus on October 22nd. 23 groups from residence halls, apartment complexes, and campus organizations participated in the annual Bear Spirit March & Banner Competition as part of UCA’s 2013 Homecoming celebration.

The March left the Amphitheater and followed a route through campus, picking up students at residence halls along the way. The March ended at the Farris Center, just in time for the Homecoming Pep Rally. The UCA Spirit Squad led the March. “It was great having the UCA Spirit Squad there to help lead the parade and get the students excited.” said Planning Committee member Adam Iserman.

This was the first time in the Spirit March’s four-year history that organizations outside Housing have been invited to participate. “Our initial idea was to develop a tradition that involved as many of our students living with us as possible.” said Housing Homecoming advisor Craig Seager. “This year, we took another positive step and opened up the march for all the other RSOs to participate as well. It unites our UCA Spirit.”

As part of the Spirit March, there was also a Banner Competition, in which the participating organizations were charged with creating a banner that represent the UCA spirit, as well as the Homecoming theme, which this year was “Superheroes on the Stripes.” Alpha Sigma Tau sorority won the banner competition, with their rendition of the front page of the UCA student-run newspaper, the Echo. Bear Hall and Conway Hall took home second place and third place, respectively. All organizations were commended for their entries in the competition during the pep rally. Winners received a trophy from Housing and Residence Life.
It’s a Bird. It’s a Plane. It’s...BEARMAN!

Housing and Residence Life parade float wins top prize.

It was the first planning meeting for the HRL Homecoming Committee when the group had the idea for something special for this year’s float, that would become to be known amongst the build crew as their “secret weapon” in the float competition.

With the theme being “Superheroes on the Stripes”, the committee instantly knew they had to create an image of the UCA Bear as a caped crusader. 10 pounds of flour, a hard hat, and several cans of spray paint later, BearMan was born. HRL is looking forward to using the BearMan costume for upcoming events and conferences, to help further the UCA spirit.

But BearMan wouldn’t be enough on his own to win the float competition. The committee constructed a replica of Estes Stadium, and staged BearMan and other costumed superheroes in front to defend the stadium from the approaching Stephen F. Austin Lumberjack. The float took First Place in the parade competition.

Committee member Michelle Zengulis took a moment to explain the importance of HRL’s participation in the parade. “This gives people a chance to remember that Housing is a part of UCA. We feel that we’re a big part of the community on campus, and we want others to feel the same way.”

The float was co-sponsored by Housing and Residence Life and the Resident Housing Association.

All-Wrapped-Up: RHA Members Present at Regional Conference

Executive Board present social programming presentation at SWACURH

Three members of the Resident Housing Association’s executive board saw an opportunity to “Do It Like A Big Bear” and represented UCA well at the Southwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls, or SWACURH, conference last month. Kenny Fluellen, Gabby Mays, and Elle Bakke developed and delivered a social programming presentation at the conference at Texas Tech University.

SWACURH is the regional affiliate of the National Association of University and Residence Halls. Every year, students and advisors from institutions in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico come together to share programming ideas, as well as to stay on top of everything happening in residence halls across the region.

The UCA delegation consisted of the executive board and representatives from various halls and apartment complexes on campus, known as Cubs. According the RHA advisor Amanda Kuster, the executive board decided themselves to submit the proposal to present a program at the conference. Their program consisted of providing the outline of how to host a social program in residence halls consisting of a toilet paper and duct tape fashion show. “This social program was a hit!” said Kuster. “This program allows students to connect at a social level, and have a time crunch to create fashionable and wearable clothing out of toilet paper and duct tape. All the students that came out to it really had a lot of fun.”

“SWACURH”, says Kuster, “is an opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills, and to help RHA at UCA develop as well. The students that go on this trip can bring back programming ideas that can not only help their community develop in the halls and apartments, but also develop outstanding UCA students as a whole.”
The Most Important Meal of the Semester

Students once again enjoy Late Night Breakfast prior to final exams

An inside report from livePURPLE editor, Doug Tate

It was barely 9:40 and there was already a line outside of Christian Cafeteria. Inside, the atmosphere was tense as Aramark staff, UCA Housing staff, and Residence Hall Association prepared for hundreds of students to descend on the cafeteria to devour mountains of French toast and sausage, scrambled eggs, hash-browns, and biscuits and gravy.

I was stationed at a biscuit and gravy station, serving students as they came through. Sponsored by Aramark and RHA, Late Night Breakfast is traditionally served by UCA administrators, faculty, and staff, aided by Aramark staff. After a quick rundown of serving technique, I found myself on my own dishing out biscuits, aided by Director of Housing and Residence Life Stephanie McBrayer ladling out gravy.

Multiple students coming through the line expressed their thanks for the event. One student asked why exactly we do it. McBrayer quickly, and quite excitedly, explained “For you! To distress before finals!” And that truly summed up the experience. UCA students are the life of the campus, and Late Night Breakfast is a great opportunity for us to remind students that the administrators, faculty, and staff are here to serve them.

Throughout the hour long event, there were multiple prizes given away by RHA, including an iPad mini. There were also multiple chances for dance breaks. The feeling of the whole event was one of genuine fun.

Spotlight on Pro-Staff

Each issue, we sit down with a member of our Department to get their take on things. If you have a question you’d like us to address, email us at housing@uca.edu

Dr. Rheiro Morris
Assistant Director

Rheiro oversees the West End Halls & Complexes (Bear, Baridon, & New Halls, and Stadium Park, Western Heights, and Bear Village apartment complexes)

Rheiro also oversees Student Staff Training

Rheiro earned her B.S. in Finance & M.I.S. at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, then went on to earn both her M.Ed. in Counseling and Personnel Services and Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

What is the most important thing you believe Housing & Residence Life at UCA does and why?

“Housing and Residence Life is necessary and essential in the development of students outside of the classroom environment. By eating, sleeping, and spending their waking hours on campus residential students have a higher likelihood of developing a strong identification with and attachment with undergraduate life and the university. It is our task as Housing and Residence Life to prepare our students for life after college.”

What is your favorite thing about UCA?

“My favorite thing about UCA would be the opportunity I received to cultivate positive relationships with my grad assistants and the network built while doing so.”

If you could pick one food that everyone at UCA had to try, what would it be and why?

“I would make them try curry mutton. I love anything curry and this is one of my favorite dishes from home. I think if everyone tries it they would love it.”
**UCA Residents Give Back**

**Halls & Complexes collect canned goods for Bethlehem House**

A UCA housing organization and two apartment complexes have been busy this Fall collecting canned goods for Bethlehem House of Conway, a charity that provides help to homeless individuals and families in Conway and Faulkner County.

Bear Village and Stadium Park apartment complexes both hosted a Trick or Treat for Cans event on Halloween. Stadium Park took their mission into the community, visiting neighborhoods surrounding campus, going door to door and asking for canned goods. Bear Village took a different approach. Resident Assistants went door to door within their own complex, asking residents if they had any canned goods or non-perishable food to donate, and then gave out candy in exchange, according to Bear Village RA Veneta Graham. “No need to choose between tricks or treats in BV. It was thought of as a Treat-For-Treat event.” Bear Village collected 213 servings of food.

The UCA residence halls got in on the action as well. A food drive was sponsored by the Resident Engagement Advisory Liaisons, or REAL. This group, made up of RAs, LAs, HOSTs, placed a collection box in each residence hall for Thanksgiving. Conway Hall raised the most, collecting 162 servings of food.

In total, Housing & Res Life has collected and donated over 690 servings of food at a time of the year when it is needed the most.

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**Blowing Off Some Steam**

**Exam Jam gives students chance to unwind**

150 UCA students took over the Indoor Sports facility on Wednesday, December 4th for the biannual Exam Jam, hosted by UCA Housing & Residence Life and Social Justice League.

According to SJL Advisor Janelle Lemish, Exam Jam is a “large-scale stress reliever event for students to enjoy before their finals take place. It gives our students a chance to take a break in a healthy way.”

At the event, students were able to play on large inflatables, receive a free massage, and take part in arts and crafts activities. There was even a DJ dance party and raffle prizes such as DVDs and a PS3.

When asked about how she felt the event went, Lemish shared that she was happy with the event, but “this semester's event only inspires bigger ideas. I'm really looking forward to bringing a better event each semester.”