



# COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

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## THE ULTIMATE GAME

Over the past five weeks many students have participated in UAF's Intramural Ultimate Frisbee league. United Campus Ministry was one of four teams who signed up to play in this fast-paced game. When UCM's team turned out for the first game, we were confronted with the fact that the other teams' abilities were way beyond our level of play. In fact, we were down right shell-shocked. We thought that we would at least be able to compete. "We're relatively athletic," we thought. "What special things can they do with a Frisbee to make them that much better than us?" Well, we found out soon enough.

For starters, the other teams have over 20 years of combined Ultimate Frisbee experience. They practice twice a week in the summer and play "pick-up" games throughout the year. When watching them play it is obvious that they are familiar with offensive/defensive strategies and have a full grasp of the game. In contrast, we didn't have nearly the experience that they possessed. But each week we learned so much! We left each game with new tactics in hand and a sense of excitement to try them out.

In many ways, these lessons are a great deal like the Christian walk. It is important to realize that we are not going to start off in our walk with the wisdom of Jesus down pat, or even the wisdom of a life-long Christian! Yet, it is important to *strive* to be like Jesus from the beginning and to take actual steps towards being Christ-like. Like our team members, as Christians we need to practice, work as a team, build up our endurance, and learn new throws.

To us, practice is the repetition of old things we have learned, but also a way to learn new things. I see the same thing happening as we read our Bibles. Studying God's word allows us to relearn old lessons and learn new things about God everyday.

In looking at teamwork, we see the importance of being able to communicate and function as a team with each member doing his/her job. The similarity I see in our Christian faith is that we are all blessed with different spiritual gifts and that we need to work together to form one strong body.

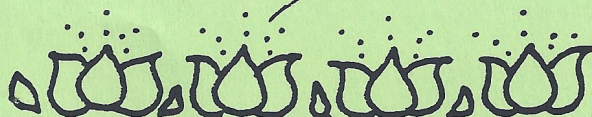
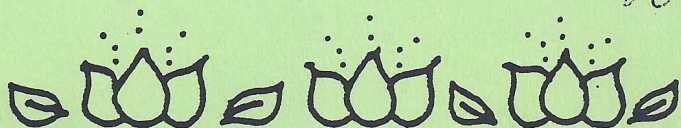
In our last game we played great! We had not been tied (other than 0-0) in any game that we had played. But in our last game, when the score was 4-4, we felt like we were finally competing! It was unfortunate that soon after we just seemed to run...out...of...gas. Yet it is important to rejoice in the trials that we have, knowing that they give us the strength to endure other tribulations that come along later in life. In this same vein, it is important for us to have the endurance to stick with the game knowing that only as we continue to play we will get better.

Lastly, there are several different ways to throw the Frisbee. The reason a player uses different throws is *not* to show off, but rather to find the best way to get the Frisbee around his/her opponent. Having a variety of styles in your throwing repertoire will make you a better Frisbee player. Likewise, Paul tells us, demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit will make us better Christians. In fact it is imperative that we not only love each other but must use the Fruits of the Spirit to make this love more complete.

"'The fruit of the Spirit is love.' Only as we live and love can we fulfill the will of God in our lives. The believer must become love-inspired, love-mastered, and love-driven. Without the fruit of the Spirit (love), we are just religious noise.

'The fruit of the Spirit is love', and it is manifested in joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control: joy is love's strength, peace is love's security, patience is love's endurance, kindness is love's conduct, goodness is love's character, faithfulness is love's confidence, gentleness is love's humility, self-control is love's victory." (From Special Bible Study Aids, copyright 1979 Thomas Nelson Publishers)

David AND Amy





## WEEKLY EVENTS

\***MONDAY:** "RA-MON-DAY"-Have a free ramen lunch with friends at the UCM Office! Drop in anytime between 12 P.M.-1:30 P.M.  
MUSIC-Practice and jam session, UCM Office @ 4:00 P.M.

\***TUESDAY:** VESPERS-Casual worship service, Lola Tilly Commons Lounge @ 7:30 P.M.

\***THURSDAY:** LUNCH BUNCH-Bible study and snack time, 307 Gruening @ 1 P.M. This semester we are discussing John.

\***SUNDAY:** LEADERSHIP-Open to anyone interested in planning UCM activities. 307 Gruening @ 3:00 P.M. Come and share! We are also studying 1 Chronicles.

## Whatz Up During Spring Break?

Mission Outreach at the Fairbanks Food Bank! Meet at the UCM office at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We will work at the Food Bank from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Ice Skating at the Big Dipper Ice Arena on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the UCM office at 3:30 p.m. for an afternoon of fun. And just in case we burn off too many calories, we will go out to eat afterwards! The cost is \$4.50 for skating + money for dinner. Bring a friend!

## Sneak Preview of April...

UCM will take part in a Maundy Thursday/Passover Meal on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. We will meet at the office at 6 p.m. and join the members of St. Paul United Methodist Church for this special event. Please mark your calendar to take part in this memorable evening!



## Student Corner

*Join us in celebrating Matt Weaver and Aimee Munn's wedding! This blessed occasion will take place at St. Paul United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m. Reception will follow at the Dog Musher's Hall on Farmers Loop.*

*Attention! Looking for an excellent webzine? Try: [www.boundless.org](http://www.boundless.org) Designed for Christian college students by Focus on the Family, the webzine contains humorous articles, useful advice, and addresses heavy issues with sensitivity. If you're interested in growing closer to the Lord and learning more about being an "on-campus believer", you need to check this out! Contributed by Amy J. Wilcoxson*

