



UWC Belgium
wishes all its
friends the
very best
'Season's
Greetings'



UWC BELGIUM NEWS

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Key features of UWC:

- Unique education to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future
- Two years of quality studies leading to the International Baccalaureate
- Students actively participate in social services
- 12 Colleges worldwide, with students from 120 countries including Belgium
- Student selection based on personal merit and irrespective of race, religion, politics and the ability to pay
- New UWC Benelux College to open in Maastricht

"Voices of the World" to perform in Ghent

Diary Date: 4 March 2009

46 young singers from 25 countries will be performing in Ghent on 4 March 2009.

This concert by the UWC Atlantic College Choir is part of the student singers' annual European tour, which this year will encompass Belgium, Netherlands, France and Germany.

The mixed choir will perform a programme of music from all over the world, notably folk music arranged for mixed choir.

Among the choir members this year are

students from Japan, Canada, Norway, Italy, Germany, UK, Romania, Turkey, Ghana, Ukraine, Vietnam, Bolivia, Kenya,

The concert will take place at the beautiful historic 'Klein Begijnhof' in central Ghent, which boasts a reputation of acoustic excellence.

Invitations will be sent out shortly after the New Year, and more details posted on our website.



UWC Atlantic College choir ...

...travelling talent comes to Ghent



Gambia, Jamaica, Denmark, Nigeria, USA, Philippines, Spain, Venezuela, Trinidad & Tobago, Mexico, Hong Kong and Argentina.

Business round table on the importance of global education

Diary Date: 25 March 2009

Prominent business leaders Peter Leyman (CEO Vergokan) and Prof. Eric De Keuleneer (Solvay Business School; President Credibe) will chair a round table discussion on the growing importance of quality international education to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This event will be held at the prestigious

Flemish business club in Brussels, De Warande, on 25 March from 12 to 2 pm.

The meeting will showcase UWC as the world's premier equal opportunities movement for international education. It will also highlight progress in the establishing the new UWC Benelux in Maastricht, set to become

UWC's 13th college worldwide.



Eric
De Keuleneer

Peter
Leyman

Biodiversity park opened at UWC India

Mahindra United World College of India has opened up its Biodiversity Park and Conservation Reserve as a study resource for schools and colleges. School and college groups can now visit the park's unique collection of over 400 plant species and attend various biodiversity tours. They will also be able to take part in workshops on rain water harvesting and watershed management, sustainable and restoration development, the identification and uses of medicinal plants and the use of common plants in skin care and comprehensive waste management techniques.

The Van Vihar Biodiversity Park and Conservation Reserve was officially opened by Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in February 2008. It is located on the College's campus in the Western Ghats, a region identified by conservationists as one of 25 'biodiversity hotspots' around the world. These areas support nearly 60 per cent of the world's plant, bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian species, but only 15 per cent of the entire area is protected.

As Hector Andrade, Director of the Biodiversity Centre and Teacher of Philosophy at UWC India, the driving force behind the project says. "Van Vihar is an invaluable research resource for Colleges in and around Pune. We can involve the people in a wider movement to restore the biodiversity of Mulshi Taluka and the entire Western Ghats."

The Biodiversity Park covers 75 acres and includes walking trails signposting the diverse flora. The conservation park covers a further 95 acres, protected from human activities. This area protects habitats and creates conservation corridors for a number of species, including Indian wild dogs, jungle cat, civet cat, wild boar, Indian hare and crested porcupine. The local forestry department has recently agreed to add a further 80 acres of forest land to the reserve to provide a large habitat for animals that have lost their habitat to development in the Western Ghats. Water conservation is also an important feature of the reserve and rain water is collected in various reservoirs.

For more information about the park, visit <http://www.muwci.net/>



UWC Belgium currently funds 2 scholarship students at UWC India: Ludwien Cooreman, now in her 2nd year, shown here during her social services activity in a local village; and Fanny Desvachez, in her 1st year.

UWC to offer agri-business training in Africa

The Mwalimu Nyerere United World College (MNUWC) is a Tanzanian initiative to establish the second vocational training college in the United World College (UWC) movement. Its concept is similar to the UWC's successful agricultural management college in Venezuela.

Scheduled to open at end 2010, the College will offer high quality education consisting of a balanced programme of academic formation and practical skills in sustainable agri-business that will attract students from Tanzania and the African Great Lakes Region.

Former Tanzania President Nyerere's vision of self-reliance is of great relevance today and his concept of peace is rooted in the same ideals as the United World College movement. The MNUWC is seeking incorporation into the UWC movement, developed along the lines of the Simon Bolivar UWC for Agriculture in Venezuela but adapted to fit the African economy and society.

Says Jeremy Jose, MNUWC's co-Project Leader: "With a rapidly growing population, but weak economy, rural Africa faces a difficult challenge to increase agricultural output and to accommodate young people in the formal economy. Well-trained and independent thinking entrepreneurs and policy makers are needed to move rural African economies beyond the simple extraction of raw materials towards increased production of self-sustaining commodities that will help to substitute imports."

MNUWC will offer a 3-year Higher Diploma course with specialisation options in the various areas of rural industries, notably: *Agricultural & Timber Production; Resource & Processing Technology; Rural Development & Economics; and Trade & Marketing of Rural Products.*

"Processing and marketing facilities that will enable rural Africans to retain a greater share of the profit from the resources that they control need to be established. MNUWC aims to provide students with these skills which will assist them to find productive work in their fields of specialisation", adds Jeremy Jose.

For more information about MNUWC visit www.mnuwc.org



"Well-trained entrepreneurs are needed to move rural African economies beyond the simple extraction of raw materials"
Jeremy Jose



A soon to be refurbished classroom building on the designated site for MNUWC, located at Butlama village in rural Tanzania

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United World Colleges (UWC) is a global non-profit, equal opportunities organisation that provides intercultural learning programmes for young people around the world. It is the pioneer and best practice leader in the field of global education for peace and justice.

There are 12 United World Colleges located around the world, which each year accept new students to complete their final two years of secondary school. A new College, UWC Benelux, will open in Maastricht in September 2009. UWC also offers Short Courses during 2 weeks in summer.

UWC students enrol for the International Baccalaureate and are extensively engaged with extra-curricular activities such as social services, sustainable development, leadership, conflict prevention, sports and the arts.

UWC Belgium is the national representative body of UWC for Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels and the Ostkantons.

Extracts from Sebastiaan's diary (1st year student at UWC Mostar)

"Since my last letter, life has become possibly even more fascinating, and my free time possibly even more scarce. That, by the way, is an economic problem, as the supply of time does not equal the demand :p I made my final subject choices ; I'm taking English A1 on Higher Level (English as mother tongue! I still can't believe my test was good enough to allow me to do this!), History Higher Level (HL), Economics HL, French B HL, Biology Standard Level (SL), Maths SL.

So far academic matters. On the CAS side of life (Creative, Action, Service), life is rather fascinating as well : Debating Club, Ballroom Dancing, Yoga, Rugby, Los Rosales (a project with children who have mental disabilities) and Theatre. I can conclude my schedule is rather busy. Hehe.

And of course, college life hasn't stood still for the past two weeks either. I have been chosen to represent my fellow housemates (120 in total) for academic matters as Academic representative, I have tried to decorate and functionalize my room (which was, let's say, a mixed result ... another economic problem here : a lot of stuff – especially school-books, 3 or 4 actual books per subject- and very very very little space). I have been on the overnight hike to Gornji Varkuf, which was an absolutely amazing experience. Sleeping with 22 in 6 beds, falling asleep to soft Spanish lullabies, or even just waking up on a lap and wondering "How did I ever come here?". Then there's also our parties... First of all, our second years organised us a variety show, mocking some of the everyday college life events; I guess it was as much fun for them as for us, as they're heading towards a busy period of Extended Essays, University Applications, Tests, Predicted Grades, etc. Then we organised an "Open Mike Night" (a kind of free podium). Busy busy time.

In the meanwhile, we're also trying to organise all kinds of things, such as our "Berkeley MUN Conference in February" (which is becoming more and more concrete every day – an A4 synthesis is following soon). Some of us (I'm afraid I had to be in it :p) have also founded a kind of "Think tank" of our generation of students; we're an extremely talented group in an extremely open, ready environment where a lot still has to be built up. That is why we decided to streamline our efforts and initiatives, and that is where "Generation 2010" stands for. And there's so many different projects..."

