



# UWC BELGIUM NEWS

## Spotlight on UWC community services: Belgian student helps earthquake victims

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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

The students at every UWC college are actively involved in providing social services to the local community. This engagement takes on many forms: it can be both structural and longer term, or be aimed at providing urgent support to people in need. There are literally hundreds of social services projects underway at the 12 UWC colleges at any given time. Here's just one recent example.

Second-year Belgian student at UWC Costa Rica, Sara Boukari, recently wrote, directed and produced a school

play entitled 'Las Aventuras de Pepino/The Ad-



UWC students help earthquake victims

ventures of Pepino'. She thus took part in her college's project to help rebuild a local primary

school in the town of Poasito that had been destroyed in the major earthquake that shook Costa Rica in January. The quake measured 6.2 on the Richter scale, killing 30 people and leaving hundreds of people homeless. The students and staff of UWC Costa Rica joined with villagers in Poasito to help rebuild school facilities. Sara's play was given a rapturous response by the local children. The school's effort raised sufficient funds to enable a local primary school to reopen.

## 13<sup>th</sup> UWC College takes shape in Maastricht

The opening date for the new UWC 'Benelux' Maastricht College is fast approaching. In September, students of the international primary school will move into temporary cabins on the premises of the International School of Maastricht. Both these schools will merge with and adopt the name of

the new UWC Maastricht. A campaign will be launched after the summer to recruit the new UWC scholarship students that will arrive in 2010. The Maastricht City Council is expected shortly to approve the definitive location for the purpose-built campus that will ultimately house almost

1000 students at the new, integrated UWC College. Meanwhile, UWC Maastricht's Community Services Programme is shaping up. Cooperation will be sought with regional organisations such as Oase (arts and sports for people with brain damage) and Kumulus (support for disadvantaged children).

## UWC Belgium selects students and awards 5 new scholarships for 2009-11 ...



### **ALEXANDER DE RUIJTER (from Laarne) will attend UWC In Italy**

“I am particularly drawn by UWC’s ideals of international cooperation and the perspective of making a difference through the International Baccalaureate. I am also convinced that my time at a UWC College will provide me with a truly unique experience and with enduring friendships.”



### **ELENA SCHOMMERS (from Burg Reuland) will attend UWC In Costa Rica**

« I believe UWC is the perfect place to meet young people, to engage directly with people from other cultures, and to seek answers to questions such as ‘Why is there racism?’ or ‘What do people think and feel in Palestine and Israel’. »



### **THOMAS VAN VYNCKT (from Ixelles In Brussels) will attend UWC In Bosnia-Herzegovina**

“The UWC features which appeal to me include the opportunity of social, cultural and moral enrichment, as well as the International Baccalaureate. The cultural mix which awaits me at the UWC College in Mostar will, I’m sure, be highly enriching for any teenager like me who wants to take his future into his own hands.”

...as well as 7 Short Course grants



**MARIUS NICOLAS (from Ovfat) will attend UWC In India.**

“What inspired me to take part in the UWC selection is the unique possibility of sharing two years in a tightly knit community with diverse people from other countries, with diverging viewpoints: all different but together. I was also driven by the opening which UWC offers towards new horizons.”



**INGE HANNON (from Knokke-Heilst) will attend UWC In the USA.**

“I am particularly taken by the international dimension of UWC and the Social Services programme. I can't wait for the summer to start. I am of course aware that leaving home for such a long time might sometimes be difficult, but I am 100% sure that I am up to it and that this will be a truly wonderful experience.”

**UWC Belgium has also selected 7 students to attend UWC Short Courses In the summer of 2009:**

Annelies Aerssens, Andrew Durot and Lena Swinnen will attend the UWC Short Course in the Netherlands.

Joke Bornauw Vanderlocht will attend the UWC Short Course in Germany.

Pierre Devos, Delphine Gans and Céline Desvachez will attend the UWC Short Course in France.



“The striking thing about the UWC colleges is that they embrace the whole world across all divides of race, history, wealth, religion, economic status and political belief: they are unique and they are conscious of their responsibilities”

*Nelson Mandela*

**The next UWC Belgium Info Days will be held in Brussels on 24 October and 28 November 2009. These concern prospective candidates who may want to attend a UWC College in 2010-12, or take part in a UWC Short Course during the summer of 2010.**

**See [www.uwc.be](http://www.uwc.be) for more information.**

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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.

## UWC College choir visits Belgium

The 46-strong student choir of UWC Atlantic College in the UK toured the Benelux and Germany in the spring. They gave two highly acclaimed performances in Belgium: one in the beautiful historic beguinage of Ghent and another at an old age pensioners' residence in Tiel. The young singers from 25 countries performed a diverse range of traditional, world and classical songs from around the world.



**Voices of the World unites peoples and cultures ... and the young and the elderly**