



## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2012

### DEAR UWC FRIENDS

Let me first wish all of you a great year 2012.

2011 was another vintage year for UWC Belgium, with many significant achievements. We selected 8 excellent new students from a high-level pool of candidates. We introduced a fairer system for parental contributions to bring them into line with parental means, while the committee's successful fundraising enabled it to grant very sizeable scholarships to many students. UWC Belgium also participated in a major multi-stakeholder conference in Louvain-La-Neuve, "One People One Planet", with the help of our alumni and a group of enthusiastic students selected from the 13 UWC schools and colleges. This event helped to position UWC as a thought leader in education adapted to the challenges of our globalised world.

Peter Verhille is now working at the Head Office in London as Director of International Fund Development.

Our National Committee has been strengthened with a professional office manager who has already demonstrated her commitment and proved highly effective.

UWC Belgium is involved in helping to open new national committees in Western Africa.

Well-attended Info Days were held in Ghent and at the King Baudouin Foundation in Brussels.

Last December, parents, students and UWC alumni, from Belgium and abroad, attended an enjoyable and merry Christmas gathering.

Looking ahead to 2012 UWC Belgium has new exiting tangible challenges keeping in mind that our core action will remain to send Belgium students to UWC colleges, which in itself also is a big challenge!

As you can read further on in this newsletter we will initiate a Short Courses Programme in 2013. In order to be prepared and to obtain practical expertise, we will send Belgian alumni as "facilitators" to other Short Courses in 2012.

Also to improve ties between UWC Maastricht and UWC Belgium we will, in line with the C.A.S. program in UWC Maastricht, initiate weekly visits to the town of Liege (+/- 40km away) to help local NGO's.

We hope very much that, via those practical "on the field actions", we will increase UWC Belgium's visibility.

Therefore we would like to launch a big appeal to our UWC alumni, parents and friends involved with UWC in Belgium, to be part of our new challenges! If you do not have the time, you will be able to contribute by replying to our "fundraising mailing" scheduled in May 2012. Let's open our horizons and work to overcome boundaries in this New Year!



Emmanuel d'Oultremont, Chair UWC Belgium

## INFODAYS AND SELECTIONS

The annual infodays held in Brussels and Ghent in October-November last year were very successful.

In total 135 interested parents and students came to one of these infodays.

Sabine Rouffaert UWC AC 01-03 and her team gave a clear and enlightening demonstration on the UWC movement and enthused the present students (and their parents) to apply for either the two years IB programme or the Short courses.

January 13th has been the deadline for the written applications for the IB programme and after this first selection the second evaluation round will be held on 3th and 10th March.

The deadline for the written applications for the Short courses is March 9th.

The final selection will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

## SHORT COURSE BELGIUM

*Nina Porst RCN 02-04 Short Course Coordinator*



"It's official: UWC Belgium is planning a Short Course for 2013. We are still at the very early stages of planning, but here is a little bit of what we have so far.

The Short Course we envision is one that takes as its starting point the unique puzzle that makes up Belgian society. As such, the core objectives will be to bring the three communities together, in a setting where an understanding of cultural and individual difference can be fostered, self-confidence, self-awareness and a sense of personal responsibility can be induced - all with the goal of enabling the students to return to their local communities to engage as active citizens and with the skills to be agents of change.

On the topic of local, the idea for the first Belgian Short Course is to keep it just that: Belgian. This means that the participants will be exclusively Belgian residents (including Flemish, Walloon, German-speaking, students of other ethnicities and possibly expats). The thought here is that keeping it Belgian, with a focus on Belgium, provides a unique opportunity to treat many of the core UWC values in a meaningful way. Moreover, we are working on a strategy for involving students from less privileged backgrounds. We, in the coordinating group, are very excited about the potential of this Short Course and welcome any and all questions and suggestions. (nina.porst@gmail.com)

## AND AFTER UWC?

*What studies do our graduates choose and how do they implement the UWC mission.*

*Sebastian Debruere UWC Mostar 08-10*



After UWC, I chose to go read International Politics at King's College in London, one of the UK's oldest, most prestigious institutes with a history of excellence in political science.

I've taken a number of standard "political science courses" like Comparative Politics, Political Theory and Introduction to International Relations, a number of more specific courses regarding Politics of Energy and Constitutionalism.

Besides my course, I am also enrolled on the Associateship of King's College, the original interdisciplinary degree that was taught at the time of King's' founding in 1829 and includes ethics, politics and theology.

My department has also granted me the opportunity to undertake research as a Summer Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science into the causes and effects of societal divisions on Democratization and Statebuilding – a topic I have had a particular interest in ever since having attended UWC in ethnically divided Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I've continued my involvement in extracurriculars by joining the Executive Committees of 2 major student organisations (KCL Model United Nations and the KCL Politics Society) as well as having co-founded the KCL Think Tank Society, Europe's first independent student think tank with 5 policy centers, a published academic journal and over 2000 members, with a UWC-AC graduate.

In December 2011, I have received the King's Leadership Award from the hands of the University's Executive Board as a token of appreciation for my efforts to better the student community.

UWC made me realise that my interest in politics stretched beyond the purely passive, and that I wanted to play an active role in shaping our future. It also made me more aware of the gratification one derives from servicing the committee.

### *Yannick Ballmann UWC Adriatic 08-10*

I started playing the drums at the age of 16 and from that moment on, music had a very special place in my life. On the other side, cultural exchange and an alternative education really appealed to me as well. After applying to UWC and being lucky to be sent to the UWC of the Adriatic, I had the chance to do both: I was able to live in an extremely interesting environment and receive great support in terms of musical development.

At first, my life was divided in two: the practice room and the "real world" and both were pretty separated from each other – until one day I caught myself consciously expressing and revisiting different moments of the day while playing. More than the thought process it was the sound that changed: the things I played and the way I played them. It felt that everything had more gravity and attitude to it than before.



And that was where my life changed: now music was the essential part of the "real world" which led to me knowing, that music would be the career path and way of life most suited for me.

Music, like every art form, is a means of communication especially for intercultural communication. It is the universal language with enormous potential to initiate positive change and to promote peace. If one wants to speak freely, one has to know the vocabulary, so I started looking for music schools. Out of a big list, there has always been one school that stood out to me, the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.

Many of my favorite musicians had gone there and I thought it would be the best place to really learn my craft. I applied and got in. I am now a third semester student, majoring in Performance and focusing on Jazz, Electronica and experimental music; on my way to receiving a Bachelor of Arts.

Now, looking back, I see how much of the message is inside my music. I wouldn't sound the way I sound without my time at UWC and I would have never gotten the chance to enter the kind of school I entered. I have gotten to know so many beautiful people, some great musicians and I had the chance to hear many incredible stories whom I am looking forward to "tonalize".

### *Fanny Desvachez UWC Mahindra 08-10*



I am currently studying in a liberal arts college in Maastricht, the Netherlands. It's called University College of Maastricht.

In contrary to many liberal arts colleges (at least in the US), I do not have to choose a major, but rather a concentration (social sciences, humanities, or life sciences). My concentration is interdisciplinary as I concentrate both on certain areas in social sciences and humanities.

Like in any other liberal arts, students make up their own curriculum, with few restrictions or compulsory courses. In that sense, the students are responsible to choose a coherent set of courses that combined together makes sense for a master.

At the moment, I mostly take courses in the areas of sociology, anthropology, and political philosophy. I'm thinking of doing a master in social anthropology of development, but it's not a fixed idea.

There are many ways in which UWC influenced my choice and place of study. These two years were intense and full of

(self)-discovery.

Maastricht offered me the possibility to continue study in English as well as enjoying the benefits of an international environment.

Throughout my experience in UWC, I have learned to appreciate discussing, debating and solving issues in small groups. According to me, small discussion groups make communication more effective and creative in order to reason critically. In addition, each student gets to express himself more; therefore the improvement is much more considerable. Thereby, the Problem Based Learning Being system that the University College of Maastricht was offering seemed perfect for the continuation of this small group spirit.

The numbers of debates brought up in and outside class, in informal discussions in the evenings as well as in different projects or CAS activities opened my eyes and caught my interests on many challenges our world is facing. In UWC you are in a constant stage of learning, you learn as much from your teacher as from the students themselves. Thanks to the numbers of informal interactions I had with people from all kind of backgrounds, when I now watch the news on television or in the newspaper, I can relate most of the articles or events to at least one person with whom I had discussed or debated this specific issue.

The many unanswered questions that resulted from such an experience led me to the choice of my studies. I wanted to understand the causes, dynamics and consequences of social, cultural, political or even economic change in today's world. It's not that I now get answers to all my questions but it at least provides me with the adequate sources and knowledge to understand these issues, which in turn gives me inspirations on how to tackle them. It simply fascinates me.

### *Inge Hannon UWC-USA 09-11*



I am currently studying Modern European Languages and European Union Studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Within MEL I chose to study French and Norwegian. French because it is such an important language in the European Union and it would be a requirement for nearly all professional areas I am interested in. Norwegian, on the other hand I chose because I really like the language and have been wanting to learn it for a while.

I am studying European Union Studies, not only because it interests me, but also in the hope that it can lead to internships in that area or further studies at, for example, the College of Europe in Bruges. Having been at UWC and having seen what UWC alumni have already achieved motivated me to study European Union Studies so that hopefully I will be able to not only complain about things, but change them.

I chose to study in Edinburgh mainly because of the course they offered. Many people had told me it was a really nice student city, which it definitely is, but I knew that I would also enjoy living in a place like Ghent. So my study rather than the choice of where I wanted to live was what made me end up in Edinburgh. Coming back to Europe, however, was a conscious decision. I am not too fond of the American college system and also wanted to be a little closer to my family.

### *Alexander de Ruijter UWC Adriatic 09-11*



After graduating from UWC I spent my summer backpacking around the world to visit some of my best friends I made at UWC and to experience their culture first hand.

It was a very rewarding experience and a great way to end the story of two of the best years of my life.

I am currently studying Biochemistry & Biotechnology at the University of Ghent (first Bachelor) which is internationally praised for its renovating research within my subject.

Back during my time at UWC I first thought of going to study in the UK, but in the end I decided to go back to my home country.

Even though the idea of studying Biotechnology was already lingering in my mind before going to UWC, UWC definitely helped me in making that decision. Especially my Biology HL teacher Max Paoli inspired me to pursue that idea. I even developed it further in the way that I am planning to study water refinement and water control for my master degree. Most probably in a University and a country other than Belgium where it would give me the opportunity to enroll in a project with a vision on making drinkable water a more accessible resource for more people, and to obtain and treat that resource in a more sustainable way.

Without UWC I would never be where I am now, and I am not purely talking educational wise. The international mindset handed to every student who attends a UWC is more valuable to me than any diploma one could get (Don't get me wrong; I still care about my diploma).

#### *Elena Schommers UWC Costa Rica 09-11*



"I am currently studying political science at UCL (Louvain la Neuve) .

I decided to study Politics because I believe it is important to understand how governments work and how they interact in order to be capable of helping unfortunate people in a long term.

I experienced several times, during my stay in Costa Rica, that no matter how amazing, great and beneficial your charity or social work is to the people directly affected or even to the government itself (such as helping to develop a Slum named "La Caprio" ), the work is only more effective if the government helps to sustain the project and at times, we even have to

act against the will of the politicians so we could reach our goal. "

#### *Thomas Van Vynckt UWC Mostar 09-11*

I am now studying in the Leiden University College of The Hague. I am doing a Bachelor in Global Challenges for three years.

As in today, I see myself going in the direction of international relations with a specialization in peacekeeping/making. Everything could still change as I am open to any new experience, contact and plan for my future.

The UWC did have an influence on my choice as after living there, I knew for sure that an international environment with a lot of human contacts was what would make me feel satisfied.

Also, the fact of dealing with global issues affecting a greater range of people became another concern of mine after leaving the UWC, I do not feel able not to be influenced and interested but things happening everywhere in the world. The message the United World Colleges have given me is still very present in my head.

## STREET PERFORMANCES

*Clara Marechal and Louise Hanson, two Belgian students of the UWC of the Adriatic organised a full week of street performances and social activities in Ghent and Namur during the first week of January.*



When spotting 20 young people from all over the world in Ghent, showing cultural dances and singing songs in all different languages, one could question their background and purpose.

Every year in the United World College of the Adriatic street performances are organized. Street performance is a student initiative in which students from the college participate in a week of performances with 3 goals in mind. The first is to promote the UWC values and to spread the word about UWC.

The more the movement is known, the more students have the opportunity to send an application and the more people that are inspired by the idea of UWC and can contribute to the movement.

The second and third goals are social service and cultural visits.

In Ghent they visited an elderly house in Tielt where they performed dances and songs and afterwards interacted with the elderly whispering poems to them through home made "whispering tubes".

The day after they had a day of practice and in the evening they performed in the cultural center the Zebrastraat with a presentation about the school followed by different acts.

During the last day of the project in Ghent there was a cultural visits day during which the group was split up.

Half of the students stayed in Ghent while the other half went to visit Brussels.

In the evening they all met in Ciney, a little village near to Namur to continue their adventure in Belgium.

Spread around the region of Namur, various means of transportation allowed the students to visit and be active in different places.

The following afternoon, the students headed for Dinant in order to entertain some elderly people at "The Churchill ", an old people's home. It was very touching to see their gratitude and their strong desire to communicate with students that did not even speak their language.

The feeling to be involved and dedicate yourself to something meaningful really reached its climax on the day after. The students went to Natoye, a tiny village in the commune of Hamois. A refugee centre held by the Red Cross welcomed them for a day. The morning was dedicated to the children, who were mostly from Kosovo, Albania, and Croatia. From the first sight, they were captivated by the students' famous song from the UWC of the Adriatic, 'Bella Ciao', and all along they happily participated in the games.

In the afternoon, a social worker from the centre gave a tour and explained more about the Belgian laws concerning immigration, which actually apply to the whole Schengen union. When the day came to its end, it was emotionally challenging to cope with the different aspects of the day : the children's joy, the insecurity of the refugees' status, and their leaving.

The last day, the students seized the opportunity to visit their comrades from the United World College of Maastricht in the Netherlands. The familiarity between UWC students was astonishing. It sincerely does not have any borders. It was also inspiring and interesting to get to know other students' routine and accommodations especially because the college of Maastricht is almost a freshman as a UWC.

Here their journey started again heading back to the United World College of the Adriatic after a week of exploration, discoveries, experience, and a lot of positive energy.

## ONE PEOPLE ONE PLANET

### *International Forum in Louvain-La-Neuve Belgium*

In August last year 12 students from across People One Planet conference in Louvain-La-workshops, heated panel discussions, and on development and environmental from economics and governance to NGO students created *The UWC Charter on New culture of competition to one of cooperation*



the UWC movement took part in the One Neuve, Belgium. They attended vibrant engaging lectures. The conference focussed sustainability across a number of spheres – work. Enlightened by the conference, the *Education* which emphasises a shift from a and community.

#### **The UWC Charter on New Education**

We, students representing the UWC propose that schools of the future should:

*Bring* cultural diversity within schools to foster a sense of global citizenship, tolerance and openness to other realities;

*Empower* students by supporting student-led initiatives in different areas of life, so giving students responsibilities and a role in decision making processes;

*Prioritize* creativity and critical thinking across the curriculum, and provide outlets for constructive self expression;

*Put forward* the importance of independent learning methods, such as research, inside and outside of the classroom;

*Emphasize* a holistic approach to education that sees students as human beings, developing both the body and the mind;

*Require* the learning of multiple languages to enable global communication.

The team of UWC students and faculty which created a Charter on new education:

Oluwapelumi Botti, Waterford Kamhlaba UWCSA  
Beba Cibralic, UWC Maastricht  
Irina Jauhiainen, Waterford Kamhlaba UWCSA  
Tendai Shirley Masangomai, UWC-USA  
Inge Hannon, UWC-USA  
Serah-Daisy Wanja Ulyatt, UWC of the Atlantic  
John Luke Pizzato, UWC of the Atlantic  
Anna Bradshaw, UWC SEA  
Sofie Pedersen, UWC Red Cross Nordic  
Miika Korja, Mahindra UWC of India  
Marina Andrijevic, UWC Mostar  
Bruno Hardy, UWC Costa Rica  
Mathieu Hardy, UWC Red Cross Nordic

Emmanuel d'Oultremont, Chair UWC-Belgium  
Arne Osland, Director of UWC Red Cross Nordic  
Cedric du Monceau, Alumnus UWC of the Atlantic  
Paul de Ruijter, NC UWC Belgium



## INTERNATIONAL

### UWC enters the major league: Clinton commitment launched

*By peter Verhille (AC 78-80) Director of International Fund Development UWC International*

UWC is making giant strides in pursuing a globally coordinated approach to fundraising. As it continues to build a concerted international fundraising drive across the movement, UWC has now embarked on a process of high-level outreach and philanthropic engagement. Confident of UWC's unique and impactful education model, we are now striving to achieve greater recognition among and engagement within major international donor circles.

A prime example-in-action of this ambitious fundraising approach was set in September 2011, when UWC took its first tentative steps on a world stage by attending its first Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) meeting in New York. This unique combined donor-charity platform brings together many of the world's leading NGOs, foundations and corporations with a view to forming partnerships in delivering high-impact social and sustainable development pledges. UWC was in good company, given that CGI's list of delegates reads like a 'Who's Who' of international philanthropy. UWC's five-strong delegation at CGI was thus able to rub shoulders and share networking and thought leadership opportunities with renowned international charities such as Save the Children, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Nike Foundation. The meeting also provided an opportunity to interact with a raft of potential major donors. UWC International's Executive Director, Keith Clark, was even invited on stage for a photo opportunity with Bill Clinton himself.



At CGI 2011, UWC launched a new scholarship and mentoring programme for young women from conflict and post-conflict affected countries. This formal CGI 'commitment' involves UWC providing one hundred scholarships for young women from conflict and post-conflict countries. The scholarships will cover two years of education at any of UWC's schools and colleges worldwide, at a total cost of USD 6 million. UWC will hereby identify, educate and develop a network of globally aware female leaders who will be committed to positive action and have the potential to become inspiring role models for future generations of girls and women from conflict-affected countries. The programme will benefit young women of high potential from 28 war torn countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East. UWC's involvement in CGI has opened the door to several new fundraising opportunities, as a result of which we are now pursuing a dialogue with several potential donors who, it is hoped, will provide funds towards this programme.

Such high-level outreach, networking and pro-active engagement with major philanthropists goes hand in hand with UWC's aspiration to consolidate and grow as a movement. By entering into such select networks of major league 'movers and shakers' and developing broad global partnerships with other NGOs, UWC is able to position itself as an esteemed and reliable global partner for major donors. This involves not only soliciting donations from philanthropists and corporations, but equally importantly demonstrating to them UWC's unique value and impact as a provider of quality, transformational education programmes. Donors, rightfully, are increasingly seeking a return on investment as defined in terms of quality and impact in the delivery of social development programmes. Engaging with donors and listening to their concerns at a senior, strategic level is an important part of this process.

UWC's involvement in CGI therefore marks only the first step of a more pro-active high level engagement strategy. In the months ahead, we will be actively exploring similar outreach opportunities in the EU, HK & China and the Americas. As Tintin the intrepid explorer once said: "We can't go back, not now!".

## PEOPLE

### Peter Verhille, Director of International Fund Development UWC International



Peter joined the Belgium National Committee in 2005 and spearheaded the re-launch of the committee, establishing more solid and effective foundations for the charity. Thanks to his tireless efforts and his ambitious approach to fundraising, the number of selected students granted a scholarship increased considerably. He also introduced annual operational plans which helped make the NC a more structured and professionally engaged organisation. Peter's outlook has always been international so his decision to work for the International Office was a natural step in his desire to contribute to the UWC movement on a more global scale and we wish him all the best with his new position.

### Krista Van den Abeele, Office manager Belgium National Committee



One of the last things Peter accomplished was to fill in the need of a back office. Krista is a professional office manager and joined the National Committee in September 2011. Krista acquired extensive experience in supporting non profit organisations through earlier assignments at e.g. the Kofi Annan Business Schools Foundation. She now supports all NC members in their various tasks. Being a mother of 3 young children, she is a real advocate of a peaceful and sustainable future development of society and is therefore proud to be part of an organisation which strives towards this.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 7	Advisory council to visit UWC Maastricht
March 3 & 10	2nd Selection round
April 17	Final Selection
April	Parent's annual hike
June 23	June Cocktail
September	50th anniversary of UWC



UWC MAKES EDUCATION A FORCE TO UNITE PEOPLE, NATIONS AND CULTURES FOR PEACE AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

UWC (United World Colleges) 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 and sustainable development.

There are 13 United World Colleges located around the world, which each year accept new students to complete their final two years of secondary school. UWC also offers Short Courses in several countries during 2 weeks every summer.

UWC students enroll 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.

We welcome your financial donations via the King Baudouin Foundation, rue Brederodestraat 21, 1000 Brussels. Gifts above €40 are tax deductible.

Bank Account Number: 000-0000004-04.

BIC: BPTOTBEBI.

IBAN: BE10 0000 0000 0404.

Mention 'UWC Belgium' with your transfer order.

Donors living abroad can also make tax-efficient donations via "Transnational Giving". Contact us for more information..

UWC Belgium vzw/asbl

Chair: Emmanuel d'Oultremont

Avenue Wienerlaan 111

1170 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 660 75 07

M +32 (0)473 41 10 50

E: [info@uwc.be](mailto:info@uwc.be)

[www.uwc.be](http://www.uwc.be)

Please send your email address to [info@uwc.be](mailto:info@uwc.be) if you wish to receive future editions of UWC Belgium News by email.



# How will you celebrate UWC's 50th anniversary?

## **Celebrate with Action\***

a week long celebration for UWC's 50th anniversary

**16 to 22 September 2012** – with a focus on Wednesday 19 September

\* Your action could be an event, activity or campaign that brings the UWC mission alive in your local community or online. All students, school and college staff, alumni, national committee members and other UWC volunteers are invited to join the celebration by either organising and/or participating in an action.

For further details visit the UWC extranet:  
<http://extranet.uwc.org>

