



Newsletter

47 The United World College in Mostar
School year 2016/2017





A word from the editor...

For the past ten years UWC Mostar Newsletter has successfully reached a wide international audience with the most important UWC Mostar news, projects, activities, impact and results of the joint work of UWC Mostar students and staff. Conceptualized in "newspaper style" it was recognized and listed as one of monthly news publications and loved by many because of the old school design. With the new school year, the Newsletter is getting a makeover, which we hope you will enjoy even more. The design will present a monthly issue of a more conceptualized, visually appealing and more accessible version of news, activities, events and stories by UWC Mostar.

The first issue of the re-designed Newsletter will be published in September 2017 and directly linked to our official social media platforms, making it available to a wider audience at any time. With the new school year UWC Mostar will also be introducing a new monthly segment - "UWC Mostar in the media", which will present the most important monthly media coverages and stories of UWC Mostar's work and impact.

In the meantime, enjoy the latest issue of the UWC Mostar Newsletter and have a wonderful summer!

Adla Curic

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CELEBRATING THE 10TH GENERATION OF GRADUATES!

On May 20th 2017, UWC Mostar wished good luck to the 10th generation of graduates. 98 students from 46 countries of the world received their diplomas for successfully completing their education at UWC Mostar.



The guest of honor and keynote speaker was Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch who addressed the graduates and guests with an inspirational speech. Like every year, students prepared a wonderful music programme, marking two years of their academic achievements and education in Mostar. Since 2006, UWC Mostar was attended by 894 students from more than 80 countries of the world, who have successfully continued their education at the universities in the region and across the world.

Thank you to news portals interview.ba and mostarski.ba for their cooperation.

UWC Mostar had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Guglielmo Verdirame at the Graduation Ceremony 2017. Mr. Verdirame is a professor of International Law at King's College London and 20 Essex Street Chambers, London; Chairman, Board of Trustees, Bridge to the Future. His inspirational speech was greatly appreciated and we thank him for being a part of our Graduation Day.

Ambassador Petritsch, Headmistress Mindoljević and Teachers, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is a great pleasure to be here with you today to mark the end of the academic year, the graduation of another generation of UWC Mostar students and of the first scholars of the Mostar Endowment. On behalf of the trustees of the Mostar Endowment, of Adriaan and Fleur De Mol van Otterloo, and of the friends and supporters who have joined us today from London, Berlin and Amsterdam, I would like to congratulate you all for your achievement.

When Adla Curic asked me to speak at this event, my first thought was that I was not going to sound like the old wise man who wants to offer deep and meaningful advice to young students.

I am afraid those first thoughts were rather short-lived. So you will have to put up with a little bit of advice. But I am offering it safe in the knowledge that, if my experience with graduation at the UWC in Duino a quarter of a century ago or so is anything to go by, you are probably all too sleep-deprived to take in much of what I am about to say.

Anyway, I will be following George Bernard Shaw's advice: what makes you wise is not the recollection of great things past, but the responsibility of our future.

The good news is that on this definition it is you – the students – who are much wiser than the rest of us.

The bad news is that there are a lot of difficult things to think about and figure out. The world is in crisis – we keep being told. Something is not working in our economies and in our societies. And our politics does

not seem to be in good shape either. What can we learn from these current crises about your future responsibility?

Over the last few years, an array of public intellectuals and pundits has been vying to understand this crisis – to capture the essence of our strange and troubled times.

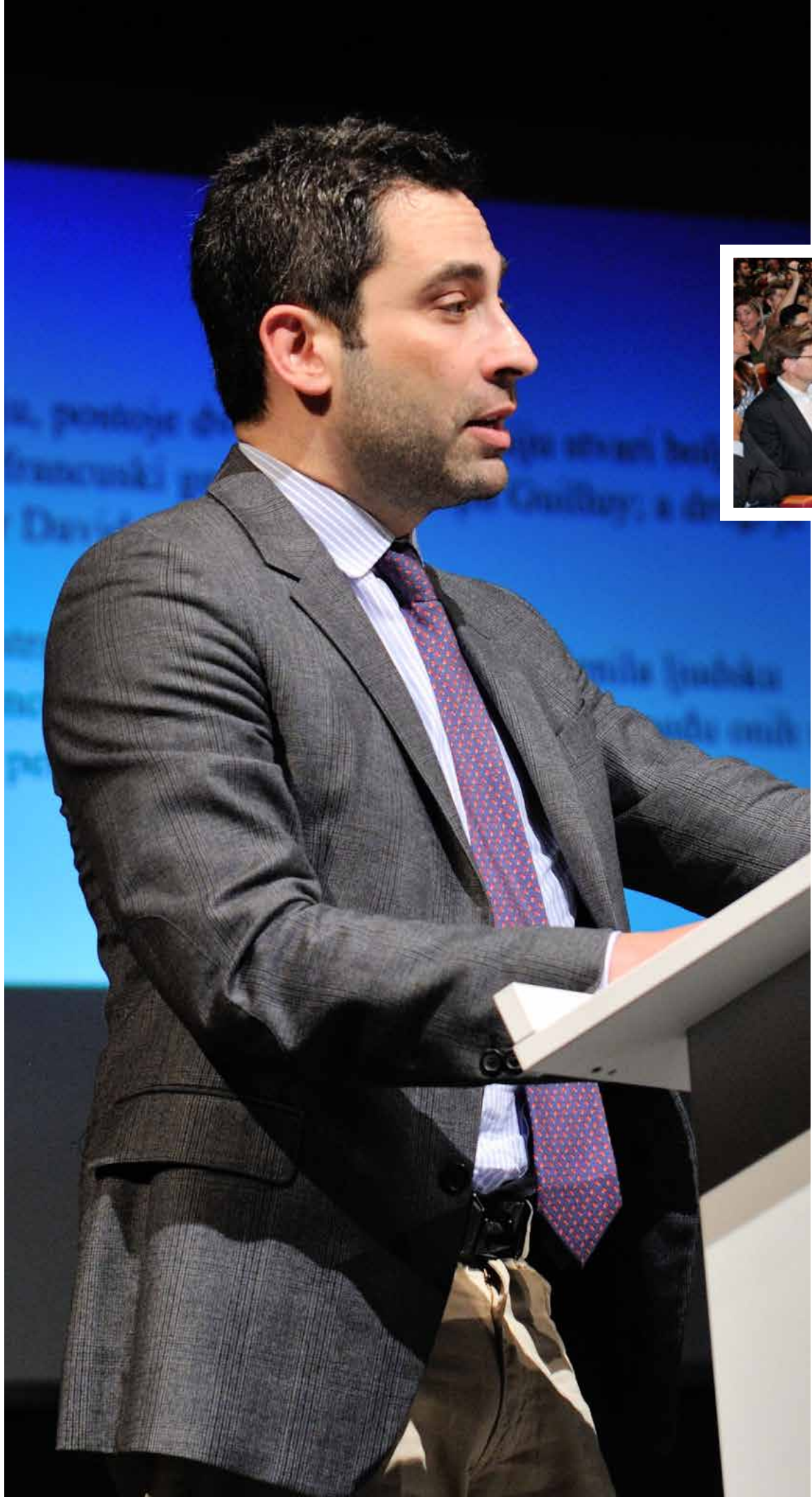
There are two who, I think, have done rather better than most. One is a French geographer, Christoph Guilluy; and another a British journalist, David Goodheart.

Guilluy has looked at how globalization has changed the human geography of France. A deep rift has emerged between those the center and those at the periphery.

At the center, you find the achievers, the successful professionals, the intellectuals, the high-earners who are well-connected to other people like them all over France and the world. These people tend to be very mobile. Their studies and careers will take them to different countries and even different continents. They do not need long to feel at home in a new place. For there will be other people in any new place they go who are just like them – people who often began by being academically successful and then went on to top careers in business, finance, academia.

David Goodheart, the British journalist, calls them the "anywheres". People who could be from anywhere, and fit in anywhere within the globalized world, especially the great global cities – London, New York, Paris, Hong Kong, Singapore, and so on.

But the people from anywhere are a minority. For most people in all of our societies, social identity is still deeply shaped by the place where they are from. In Goodheart's words, they are the "somewheres". Or, as



Guilluy describes them, the people of the periphery.

The periphery is not, by the way, a periphery in the sense of physical geography. It is a periphery in the sense of human geography. This human periphery can be found even at the heart of Manhattan.

Why does this matter to you?

Well, first and foremost, because simply by virtue of having been admitted to the UWC Mostar, and spent two years here, you are already part of a unique elite of high-achievers. And you have each been given a ticket to the global elite. No doubt most of you will use this ticket, as others before you have done. You will go on to join global professional, academic and economic elites.

The education you have received, and your experience here have prepared you for that. They have also prepared you to be highly mobile and adaptive. You can handle 'cultural shocks' better than your peers. You have an outward-looking disposition and a receptive social personality. So you will fit in almost seamlessly into each new place you move to – university campus or city.

This is the multicultural, internationalist aspect of your experience that everyone associates with the UWCs. It is an important, central part of the UWC ideal. We are right to cherish it.

But there is another part of your experience here and of the philosophy of the UWC movement that you should also cherish. And that is the relationship with the small part of the world that is closest to you, your most immediate human community.

Over the last two years, you have learned a lot not only about the world, but also about this one place – Mostar – that will no doubt forever be very special to each one of you.

You have been encouraged to cultivate your interest and affection for Mostar, to learn about its history and to serve its community. This attachment and service to the local community has always been an important part of the UWC experience."

And so you have been taught to be not only enlightened globalists, but also dedicated localists. Citizens of the world, and also citizens of Mostar.

The global elites, of which I am probably a member, have been receiving a lot of criticism in recent years. Most of my friends and colleagues tend to react very defensively to it. But I think that much of this criticism may be well deserved.

One error my generation may have made is to put too much emphasis on the global, and often to forget that the national and the local matter too. It is an error that your generation will need to rectify. The gap between the center and the periphery – between the winners in this interconnected global world, and the losers and marginalized – has become unsustainable.

The thought with which I would like to leave you is that, as you go on to greater things and new places, you should always make an effort to learn about your new neighbors. As you did here in Mostar. You must resist the temptation to exist in academic, professional or financial ivory towers. And in each of the new exciting places where life will take you, you must think of ways of serving the people who will be closest to you and yet so far away.

I wish you every success in the future and a great graduation party.

Thank you."

Professor Guglielmo Verdirame

VALENTINA MINDOLJEVIĆ – INTERVIEW

For five years UWC Mostar is led by a Dalmatian lady Valentina Mindoljević. And it seems that for this type of project there is not a better person in the city for the job. During the war she fought against the war, helped refugees from BiH and after the war her work took her back to Herzegovina to continue her engagement in holistic education of children from all over the world. Ms Mindoljević says that the College proves that children can learn together, especially those from our country. Without any issues whatsoever.

By: Interview.ba, Asim Bešlija

How to build a normal human being:

„As I have said to the students – if you want to be the next intellectual, first of all you need to know everything that surrounds you, and second of all – you must be human. You cannot be blinded by low or nationalistic feelings or make it your only identity. So the children have the motivation to learn and we select them according to their merit, how they treat things, if they are ready to constructively resolve issues etc. They come from different backgrounds, they have heard about certain things and I do think this is sometimes a chatarsic process for them.“

UWC Mostar is one of the most successful Mostar stories, merely by being here. You recently celebrated ten years anniversary. When you look back, what do you see, what have you accomplished:

„We recently did an Impact Study in order to clearly see our impact on the occasion of the ten years' anniversary, how we affect the students and the local community. When I look back, I can see that we have become equal partners with other organizations and that was our goal. My goal was not to become an elite school, but to develop a two way learning process – we have a lot to learn from other schools and colleagues, educators and they can learn a lot from our model and education approach.

We have developed good cooperation with pedagogical institutes and ministries of education. On the other hand, as we are referred to in the impact study, we turned out to be the rulers of no man's land. We are physically in the middle because i.e. our „Spanish room“ is used three or four times a week by other schools, organizations, institutions, especially for joint projects. I think that with our mission, our location is perfect as a place of contact where everyone can meet and work on joint projects.

The school is a part of international network of colleges. How is this college ranked in comparison to other colleges?

Each college is specific, located in a specific environment and deals with various issues. UWC in Norway is a part of the Red Cross which has a rehabilitation center next to the college, so they are often in a situation to enroll students who need physical therapy so they have an opportunity to help them. And that is a part of their mission. Freiburg has a „green college“ which deals with matters of sustainability, environment protection etc. We are the first college in a post conflict society. I sometimes wonder if we are an NGO or a school. Because so much is expected of us to do besides educating students. The movement cares a lot about this college and everybody says that we are on the edge of the mission. The project was supposed to last for only three years, but we

managed to prolong the stay and continue the work because everybody is aware of the importance of such school in this context. We also do our best to select students coming from conflict and post-conflict areas, so it is an experiential learning process. We had a subject entitled „Peace and conflict studies“, it has a different name now, but we want all of our students to go through such basic modules. Children do encounter consequences of conflict everywhere in the world and they are aware of the issues within society and the environment that are result of these consequences.

Which values do you promote at UWC and how does that work in this type of society and environment?

Whenever you read the newspapers or watch tv you see problems, but when you talk to ordinary people they will tell you – why did we need this. Still, people live, they spend time together. I think it is difficult to be a teenager in a divided city. You feel as if all eyes are on you, so it is necessary to assist young people in seeing things in a different way.

Our values range from care for the environment, mutual understanding, respect, international tolerance. There is a list of values. And all of those are clearly articulated in our educational model. We are a holistic community, we promote policy of differences and we all learn from experience.

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I believe that we are infiltrated in all segments of the local community, primarily because we don't have a campus. We have residences within the city, in neighborhoods, so our students can be integrated in the local community in that way. We cooperate with all institutions who work with children that need special protection and care – children with development difficulties, minorities etc.



VALENTINA MINDOLJEVIĆ – INTERVIEW

► **UWC Mostar educates students from all over the world and the entire BiH. It is a school where Bosniaks, Croatsians and Serbs are under one roof, I assume without any problems?**
Without any problems whatsoever. They share rooms, they go out together, they go on summer vacations together.

How is that possible, when they keep telling us it's not?
I don't think it's impossible. I think that the school atmosphere is like that. „As I have said to the students – if you want to be the next intellectual, first of all you need to know everything that surrounds you, and second of all – you must be human. You cannot be blinded by low or nationalistic feelings or make it your only identity. So the children have the motivation to learn and we select them according to their merit, how they treat things, if they are ready to constructively resolve issues etc. They come from different backgrounds, they have heard about certain things and I do think this is sometimes a chatarsic process for them.“

We have a class called „Balkan studies“ and all students must take that class, and from history to culture we also mention the previous war. And in a way that those of us who have survived the war in different ways present several different sides. One side of the story is by a teacher who fled to London at the age of 16, another is by a teacher who survived Srebrenica, then myself who has dealt with humanitarian work and antiwar campaigns. I think it is important for them to understand that everyone who survived a tragedy had a tragedy, and how meaningless all of that is. It is important to talk to children because those are new generations, born after the war. They are very interested, but I am sorry that many things from their childhood have been taken away.

When students from purely ethnical societies in BiH meet here and start associating with colleagues of other nationalities, does their understanding and acceptance of other and different change, do they become different people, so to say?
I would say so. Because you as a teacher can see the transformation. Those are two years, 16-18 and you cannot recognize the person in the end. Another important element is that we have children from BiH and international students. And now they

get a new identity – locals. That is the first step. First they get to know each other and then students from other countries of the world, 60 different cultures, environments, habits etc.

Do your students move around Mostar freely, regardless of the part of the city?
Yes. I remember when the school integrated, one of the students got into a fight with another student from the other program because of a boy. And people would probably say differently, looking from the outside. If there are any issues they are mostly on that level. We had some issues with students of different races, and they experienced some teasing from elementary school children who have never seen people of another race I guess. So we decided to go over to them, we made joint projects, arts and sports, and now they are friends. We took advantage of the situation and resolved the issue in an educational way.

What is the difference in quality of education, content, knowledge that the students get here compared to other schools in BiH that have a strict ethnic designation?
It is based on experiential learning and very strongly developed critical learning. That means that they select their subjects and can easily be directed. So, the subjects they are interested in and plan to study at the universities they select on a high level, and the rest on standard level. We go into depth, synthesis and analysis - i.e. how we study history. History is taught based on different resources, critical reviews, writing essays etc., we do not learn things by heart. At the exam they get three articles related to an event and they need to write a critical essay.

I am a teacher of math and physics. You do not only study tasks and definitions in physics, you also have sub-questioning, you need to link everything, it takes understanding and you do a lot of practical work. Special attention is also drawn to academic form, expression, so when they complete the studies students are capable of writing scientific papers, they know the structure, method, results because it is part of every subject. They do not have a graduation paper, but extended essay which is real research. We also have a subject called „Theory of Knowledge“ where they critically review everything they have learned. They write essay about their surroundings, in order to see what is really true, how we can believe in something. We also have

cultural weeks, where the students learn about other cultures and that is the most important part of the studying process.

What are the reactions of the community, institutions, parents and students to the work that you do? We are referring to perception and clearly measurable results.
The reactions are very positive. Both from parents, students and institutions, considering the resources we have, we also provide the space for professional development of teachers, which is not often provided by the community. That is something that we offer institutions from our side. We also get many applications from Mostar, so that says a lot. I sometimes think about what it would be like to open a school which is non-national, where classes are in English, where you study history and a subject called „languages and literature of the people of BiH“. History would be based on this model, critical reviews, creating your own opinion from different sources and I would really like to know what the reaction would be. Maybe because the program would be considered prestigious, classes in English, students would get the opportunity to enroll in prestigious schools and they would be very well prepared to study anywhere in the world. It gives a dosage of neutral, it is different.

Statistically, how many students have graduated from UWC Mostar until now, what countries do they come from, how many are from BiH?
Everyone says that real results of education are visible after 20 years. But what I can say is that many students have graduated from universities by now, many of them have returned and many of them are staying abroad. Many pursue their MAs and PhDs, so they reach high as far as the education goes. Some of them have their own companies, some are very well positioned in international organizations in BiH, and some have dedicated themselves to the values that we promote. One of our former students works for „Engineers without borders“ constructing sustainable buildings all over the world. Another former student is developing a software for blind people, inspired by a colleague from Spain who is blind. Our former students are also members of the City Council, Psychologists association, organization „Kult“. So far, there are 847 graduates from more than 80 countries of the world.

Alumni Scholarship Donation Campaign

The UWC Mostar €1 pledge

WHAT IS THE UWC MOSTAR €1 PLEDGE?
The endowment Bridge to the Future funds scholarships for students from across the world and enables bright students to follow an excellent education, irrespective of their financial background. The capital of the endowment is invested and the income and capital gains are used to donate to UWC Mostar to cover the running costs of the College. With a capital of €200,000 we can provide a scholarship to a student every year into perpetuity. Your donation will be used to create the UWC Mostar alumni endowment. We aim for all alumni to donate a small



amount, €1 a month, to the UWC Mostar endowment fund, Bridge to the Future. Your money will go to scholarships of students who will attend UWC Mostar in the future. Sign up today and register online

directly by going to <http://www.mostarendowment.com/alumni.html>. Let's help us achieve the highest proportion of alumni contributing to their college!

The people behind the mission – recognition to UWC Mostar staff

2017 is the year we celebrate the 10th generation of our students, our achievements and success.

It is also the year where we get the chance to celebrate 10 years of the people behind the mission. UWC Mostar expresses deepest gratitude for their dedication, enthusiasm and distinguished hard work in the field of education and promoting international understanding to the following members of the UWC Mostar community:

- Valentina Mindoljević (UWC Mostar Headmistress)
- Ivana Knježević (English B, Pastoral Coordinator)
- Nina Špago (College Secretary)
- Saša Šantić (Visual Arts)
- Selma Šarančić (Biology, IB Cordinator)
- Marjana Tomaš (University Counselor)
- Darija Stojčić (Lab technician)
- Emil Špago (IT technician)
- Ivona Sušac (Croatian, Admissions Coordinator)
- Tanja Čvoro (Serbian, Librarian)
- Velema Rokša (Administrative Coordinator)

- Dženan Hakalović (History, Global Politics)
- Rijad Novaković (Action Coordinator)
- Silvana Čosić (Housekeeping)

Special recognitions were awarded to:

- Teacher of the Year Award -Alessandro Masi (Math)
- Certificate of Appreciation - Danijela Četković (House mom, Co-curricular Coordinator)



New UWC Mostar residence in school year 2018/2019

Purchase of the second student residence for UWC Mostar, marks an important milestone in future plans of UWC Mostar development. Following the reconstruction of Mostar's old post office building and turning it into a residence for 35 students in 2013, the newly purchased building will be able to accommodate 50 students and represents a significant step towards financial sustainability of the College. Located in close proximity of the Gimnazija building, in the beautiful Šantić street, the building will not only provide accommodation for our students, but also contribute to the city itself by making it one ruin less in the City of Mostar. The residence is planned for opening in the school year 2018/19. The purchase was made possible with the help of generous donors and supporters, who believe in UWC Mostar mission and strengthening the position and the future of the College in this city.



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The news about the order issued by US President Donald Trump, which prohibits the admission of people from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen to the US, stirred global reactions and protests. Being a school located in post-conflict society, UWC Mostar decided to send out a message of solidarity, but above all to emphasize the importance of giving equal educational opportunities to youth from conflict areas. In the school year 2017/2018 UWC Mostar will be accepting students from all seven countries affected by the US immigration ban to study alongside students from all three ethnic groups from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 60 other countries and cherish diversity as one of the key pillars of society.

Commenting, Fleur Meijs, Executive Director of London-based UWC Mostar endowment "Bridge to the Future", said: "UWC Mostar and the endowment "Bridge to The Future" aim to support

the most promising young students from around the world who are in need. In these difficult and divisive times, we have specifically chosen to help students from the seven countries affected by the US immigration restrictions. We passionately believe that by bringing together the very best students from right around the world we can make sure that the next generation can shape a better society and future for us all."

Founded 11 years ago, in a region dominated by the aftermath of war and continuing ethnic divisions, UWC Mostar is part of the United World Colleges. It offers a two-year programme focused on experiential learning, community service and high academic standards to enable the students to acknowledge and value their differences and to discover their shared humanity. UWC students, including several refugees, are selected irrespective of their nationality, religious and ethnic background and socio-economic means. Two-thirds receive full scholarships.

Valentina Mindoljevic, Head of UWC Mostar, remarked: "Around the Old Bridge in Mostar, symbol of Europe's most bitter conflict after 1945, we are educating students from 61 nations and all of Bosnia's ethnic groups together in one residential school to foster tolerance, international understanding and to combat all forms of extremism. We offer scholarships to US students, as well as to refugees and students from majority-Muslim countries banned by the US Executive Order to send a signal for peace."

Jens Waltermann, UWC International's Executive Director, added: "The UWC movement's mission is to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. We do this across our 17 secondary schools and colleges worldwide, which welcome students from 155 nations and territories. I applaud the initiative of UWC Mostar and its endowment in London and I hope that the other UWCs will receive similar financial support to follow this example."



Gale and Shelby Davis



Lord Mountbatten



Eijk and Rose-Marie van Otterloo

THE DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP
The United World College Mostar Endowment 'Bridge to the Future' is proud to announce the creation of four Davis Scholarships. These scholarships will fund, in perpetuity, four places for talented students from Bosnia and Herzegovina at United Word College (UWC) Mostar. The trustees of the endowment are thrilled with this most generous gift. Being long-term supporters of the UWC movement, Gale and Shelby Davis enabled with this gift even more talented Bosnian students to enjoy world-class education in a multi-ethnic environment. In doing so they made an essential contribution to a more tolerant and peaceful Bosnia and Herzegovina in the years to come.

Commenting on the creation of these scholarships, Shelby Davis stated: "More scholarships for UWC students at Mostar and at every other UWC campus are critical to expanding educational opportunities for the world's most promising teenagers. I hope many others will join in giving generously to UWC Mostar."

THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOLARSHIP
The United World College Mostar Endowment 'Bridge to the Future' is proud to announce the creation of the Lord Mountbatten Scholarship. This scholarship will, in perpetuity, fund one student from Bosnia and Herzegovina at the United World College (UWC) in Mostar. With this scholarship the Trustees of the endowment are honored to commemorate Lord Mountbatten's efforts to create a more peaceful world. Lord Mountbatten was convinced that only by coming together as a global community, a process in which youth has a special role to play, can we promote a peaceful and prosperous future for humankind. This led him to be a staunch supporter of the UWC movement, of which he became the first International President.

Commenting on the creation of the scholarship, the family of Lord Mountbatten has stated: "That extraordinary young men and women will attend UWC Mostar in his memory is, we believe, just the way he would like to be remembered. Thank you to

each and every person who has made this scholarship possible. We send our thanks, support and warmest wishes."

In addition, Michael-John Knatchbull, Chairman of the Trustees of the Mountbatten Memorial Trust, has written: "On behalf of the trustees of the Mountbatten Memorial Trust I would like to endorse the new United World College student scholarship initiative so generously funded by the endowment trustees of the United World College in Mostar and to be named after Lord Mountbatten."

We feel the importance of any educational opportunity to help foster better understanding between nations, cultures and religions has grown to be more and more crucial in addressing the challenges we face in the modern world. The primary aim of the United World College movement was founded on this principle."

EIJK AND ROSE-MARIE VAN OTTERLOO SCHOLARSHIP
The United World College Mostar Endowment 'Bridge to the Future' is proud to announce the Eijk and Rose-Marie van Otterloo Scholarship. This scholarship will finance a place for a bright young student from Bosnia and Herzegovina at the United World College (UWC) Mostar in perpetuity. The trustees of the endowment are thrilled to announce this highly generous donation by Eijk and Rose-Marie van Otterloo, which is exemplary for their commitment to philanthropic causes of all kinds, ranging from art to development, and from healthcare to education. Partly thanks to their support, the 'Bridge to the Future' endowment fund is able to greatly contribute to UWC Mostar's long-term financial stability, allowing the college to bridge ethnic divides in the Balkan region for the years and decades to come.

Commenting on the creation of the Scholarship, Eijk and Rose-Marie van Otterloo said: "We are grateful that our children had, and our grandchildren will have the opportunity to attend the schools of their choice. With our gift to UWC Mostar we wish to give deserving students the chance to attend a world-class school and hope they will become the global citizens they strive to be."

Read more about UWC Mostar Endowment 'Bridge to the Future' and scholarships on www.mostarendowment.com.





Swedish Ambassador visiting UWC Mostar

UWC Mostar had the great pleasure of welcoming the Swedish Ambassador in BiH, H.E. Anders Hagelberg, Ms. Marie Bergström Counsellor/ Head of Development Cooperation and Ms. Aisa Bijedic, Programme Officer, Development Cooperation, Environmental and Climate Change in May 2017. Ambassador Hagelberg expressed his support for our work and future plans. The visit was a part of the day which included "The Swedish Press Freedom Day: Unfolding Access to Information", organized at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University in Mostar.

Board Meetings 2017

Meetings of the Board of Foundation Education in Action and College Board were held prior to the graduation day in May 2017. Apart from the regular topics, both Boards were mainly focused on future strategy and development. At the same time, members of the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund "Bridge to the Future" also met in Mostar and used the opportunity to get to know the students holding endowed scholarships. Thanks to the generous donation from Mr Adriaan de Mol van Otterloo, member of the Governing Board, our students organized a wonderful graduation party, which followed the official graduation ceremony. The party was open for all young people in Mostar. It was attended by many UWC Mostar friends who along with our friends from Gimnazija Mostar enjoyed the celebration of the 10th generation of graduates. UWC Mostar expresses gratitude to Adriaan de Mol van Otterloo for his continuous support and dedication to the UWC Mostar.

Model United Nations Conference in Mostar – MUNiM 2017

UWC Mostar hosted the 11th MUN Conference from 23/3/2017 – 26/3/2017. This years' conference gathered more than 250 participants coming from all over the world including BiH, Serbia, UK, Slovenia, Romania, Germany and Croatia. The official opening ceremony took place at the Culture Center Mostar, and we had the pleasure of welcoming the guest of honor Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Mostar, Ms. Ayşe Selcan Şanlı. During three days' conference students had the opportunity to discuss important current topics as a part of Security Council, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Council, Environmental Council, EU, Historical Committee, WTO. Joint topic of the 11th MUN conference was "Tipping points in international relations" MUN Conference organized by UWC Mostar MUNiM team is the most significant conference of its kind for high school students in BiH. In addition to the impact on global issues and development of public presentation skills, the conference joins together young people from the Balkans and provides them with an opportunity to establish multiethnic and lifelong friendships.



Mostar joined other big Balkan cities in the newspapers as a city that marched for women's rights. I was so proud to see many people, both from our school and city of Mostar joining us in the walk. We managed to start the tradition: See you again on streets of Mostar in March!

UWC Movie: "UWC Mostar - Lighthouse for Change"

UWC Mostar proudly presented short film 'UWC Mostar – Lighthouse for Change' in May 2017. The movie is designed to illustrate the important role of UWC Mostar educating for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond. It was produced to inspire and help create a paradigm shift in education. The film gives an insight into the reflections of UWC Mostar students and staff on what living and studying in a post- conflict environment means for them and what impact they are hoping to make. The film was produced in collaboration with Earth Network as part of the SKOLL Project. You can watch the short film on UWC Mostar official Facebook page/Youtube: <https://m.facebook.com/uwcmostar/>



WOMEN'S DAY MARCH

By Hana Huskić, UWC Mostar, Class of 2017, BiH

Feminists from Croatia, Montenegro and BiH for last couple of years organize "Noćni Marš" (The Night March) as a protest for 8th of March. Since there were no such protests in Mostar, and I was inspired by the stories from other Balkan cities, I decided to organize the night march in Mostar too. Many people liked the idea, so I was quickly joined by my friends Maria Sanches and teacher Irma Baralija. Only in couple of days, with the help of smart and organized women, and support from the school administration (also ruled by awesome women!), we managed to get the city license to protest, made banners, went public on social media where we invited as many people as possible. Focus of the marches was different in different cities. It ranged from marginalization of women to the right to abortion. Since the main organizers of the protest in Mostar were us, young women only graduating high school, we marched for our bodies

and our space, to send the message that we want to be more visible and listened to. We want better representation of women in the education system; we want to send the message to our governments that us young people care about human rights and that we do want to participate in the organization and development of our countries. The protest was a success.



UWCIM X REFUGEES IN SERBIA PROJECT

Students of UWC Mostar expressed deep concern about the situation of thousands of refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan who were located in Belgrade railway station, suffering from the low temperatures, critical sanitation and sheltering conditions.

According to Amnesty international, it is estimated that there are 1,200 refugees and migrants in Belgrade, Serbia and at least a quarter are unaccompanied children. They have little or no access to proper sanitation, running water, healthcare or warm clothing. The UN Refugee agency issued reports showing that, since the beginning of this year, five people already died because of the harsh conditions as they tried to enter or travel across Europe.

UWC Mostar students and staff decided to take action by raising money for the purchase of clothing, warm meals, hygiene items and other essential goods to the refugees. In coordination with the NGO "Refugee Aid Serbia" and other organizations, a first team of UWC Mostar volunteers continue to help in Belgrade and give aid to the NGO's working with volunteers. Any contribution is welcome and makes a remarkable difference in changing the lives of refugees.

The students of UWC Mostar who volunteered in Belgrade worked constantly with Refugee Aid Serbia, assisting them in daily distribution of shoes, clothes and hygiene items to the refugees who lived behind Belgrade railway station. A group of seven students continued volunteering through UWCiM x Refugees in Serbia with a diligent attitude. They continued their work through providing warm meals, clothes and shoes, and brightening

the day of the people in the barracks in Belgrade. Though the weather has warmed up significantly, it is vital for volunteers to keep working and helping out those who are in need. Our students have also been volunteering at the barracks where the refugees are living by cleaning and setting up light, simultaneously collaborating with Hot Food Idomeni Belgrade, a mobile soup kitchen. The living conditions of these people are extremely poor, with no heating, sanitation, or a proper source of water. There is much to be done, and if it weren't for the many organizations working together as one and the people donating, many people would not be able to go on. This is why UWCiM x Refugees in Serbia will continue to contribute to the wellbeing of refugees next fall, dependent on fundraising and donations more than ever.

Your donation can make a change:
<https://www.gofundme.com/uwc-x-refugees-in-serbia>

A WORD OF FROM THE VOLUNTEERS...

"The two fourteen-year old boys that played football in the middle of the barracks, reminded me of my brothers back home in Sweden, the way that they chased the football full of energy and how they hugged each other while waiting in the food line. However, these boys, with hopes

and dreams about their future like my brothers, are not able to fulfil them because they are stuck in the dirty barracks behind a train station, without education, family and not too long ago without basic sanitation. Uncertain about their future. Forgotten, simply because the news stories about their suffering are easily scrolled past in the hope that someone else will take care. Wrong. Who will care if we don't? All the help these refugees get in barracks from NGOs and volunteers is largely dependent on the donations that are received and therefore even the smallest amount of money or time contributed is crucial for a change."

Anouk, Sweden

"Standing and watching hundreds of men, some no more than boys, some older than my father made me realise that as much as I thought I knew about the situation, these men are not numbers and cannot possibly be summed up in statistics and articles. These men had left behind so much to escape the danger and fear present in their homes only to have it replaced with new dangers and different fears. Every single man who walked past me, and there were so many, who smiled at me, asked me how I was or where I was from had his own story, family, life. Every time I answered them, I am from England, I felt uncomfortable, guilty even. I know it is no more my fault where I was born than it is theirs, yet that small detail set my life and theirs on such different paths."

Theadora, United Kingdom



"We do not believe in closed borders and fear but in bridges and celebration of diversity. We believe in the solidarity and agency of communities when institutions neglect people from their basic needs. Every day we learn to embrace and practice these values to bring a positive change in our community."





The happiest event in town – the 5th Festival for Children

UWC Mostar organized the 5th annual Festival for Children in April 2017. The Festival is dedicated to children and youth with special needs and like every year has a very prominent humanitarian and inclusive character.

The Festival included over 350 participants and presented members of several institutions - "Los Rosales", Elementary school for children with special needs Mostar, Kindergarten "Radobolja", "Holy Family", "Our Kids", Home for children without parental care "Egyptian Village Mostar", Association "Vedri Osmijeh", with guest performances by Mostar Majorettes, Dance Studio Mo Stars and Ballet school Arabesque.

In cooperation with Sports Association of the City of Mostar and Sports Academy "Little Bridge" Mostar we organized sports activities and competitions for all participants.

The Festival also presented many entertaining artistic workshops for the youngest. The happiest event in the city was completed with UWC Mostar clowns, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Sponge Bob, Hello Kitty and Our Kids Teddy Bear.

Visitors had the opportunity to visit the stands with handmade products by our partner institutions and directly support the great work that they do.



Earth Hour 2017

Together with other significant monuments of the world, the Old Bridge in Mostar joined the Earth Hour 2017. This years' event was organized by WWF Adria in cooperation with UWC Mostar and Mostar Rock school supported by the City of Mostar.

For the 10th time in a row Mostar and UWC Mostar joined the global initiative "Earth Hour" together with more than 7000 cities from 178 countries of the world.

In addition to the event which took place at the Old Bridge, several locations in Mostar marked the Earth Hour and conveyed the message of fighting against climate changes. Earth Hour 2017 took place during the MUN Conference in Mostar and the initiative was also supported by our guests from the entire BiH and the region.



This school year UWC Mostar presented one more innovative and interesting project – making of the album UNITY. This was an opportunity for all talented students to present the variety of their talents. The decision was made – we are going to record! Before the official recording, two sets of auditions were held where students performed songs they wanted to record. The audition was followed by organized recording in one of the biggest recording studios in Balkan – Pavarotti Music Center studio. During one weekend of April students were recording for 12 hours each day. One day was left for production of all

materials. All of this would be impossible without the help of our visual arts teacher Vladimir Mičković.

In the end, 12 songs were recorded – six original songs and six cover songs. A great album promotion was organized on 13th of May at the National theatre in Mostar. Free copies of UNITY cd were distributed to all attendees after which all 12 songs were performed on a Unity stage specially arranged for our first time album promotion.

This was a great experience for students since most of them involved in this project want to continue their music career and now they know how this looks like in the real music business.

Students participating in the making of the first UWC Mostar album were Srđan Čolaković, Džafer Čamdžić, Angus Ilmari Paget, Boden Llewelyn Franklin, Chiara Margherita Lampis Temmink, Ava Molenson, Taran Jai Kanabar, Dino Kolonić, Ela Pencl, Maria Sanchez Esteban, Lamija Kovačević, Åse Irene Døsen, Eléonore Monette, Paul Schwindenhammer, Lura Ajdini, Michele Martino, Melanie De Vincentiis, Lejla Šoše.

Album promotion host – Miron Banjac. Produced by – Vladimir Mičković (visual arts teacher) and Danijela Četković (Co-curricular coordinator).

PAINTING THE STREETS OF MOSTAR WITH STREET ARTS FESTIVAL

The most widespread of all Mostar festivals and cultural events in the City of Mostar has left one more successful artistic mark this year as well.

In the beginning of June, a number of traditional cultural events took place, including performances, exhibitions, creative and educational workshops, lectures and recreational activities.

"This year's Festival gathers a very interesting group of artists and creative individuals from the city and other cities of BiH, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, Uruguay and Argentina.

Mostar has brand new murals and with regard to the quality of works we believe that this is one of the best years. We are especially pleased to have revitalized one of the abandoned spaces, former barracks Konak, where we capacitated inner and outer premises for artistic interventions and exhibition and where we also intend to have artistic programs in the near future"- said Marina Đapić, one of the SAF organizers.

A great number of children were also involved in this year's festival, through street art and creative workshops, there was a lot of interest for participation and the feedback was extremely positive.

A novelty within the Street Arts Festival is "StreetArtura Off" program, which would take place throughout the year, presenting exhibitions, artworks in public spaces and music programs.

The aim of the Street Arts Festival is creation of a stable, multicultural artistic platform through artistic works of young people in public spaces. The project promotes street arts, revives public spaces and connects artists from all over the world.

The festival greatly contributes to the creation of an urban culture in the City of Mostar by directly communicating with the citizens of Mostar through the potential and creativity of the younger population.



WELCOMING MOSTAR SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

The Mostar Summer Youth Programme (MSYP) is a free summer educational programme that provides youth aged 14-19 from Mostar and the surrounding area with opportunities to improve their self-confidence and key skills. The programme empowers participants in their educational, social and professional ambitions, by connecting them with organizations and businesses working in and around Mostar. MSYP

Site-specific art

Anthropological and historical linguistics, Global politics, Feminism in visual and performative arts, From ethics to bioethics, Literature and storytelling, Social media and PR, Business development, Logic: where math meets philosophy, Human rights and social justice, The history and institutions of the EU, Software skills

Workshops: European Youth Parliament simulation – EYP, City tours and mapping,

This year's programme also presented a lot of fun for the participants which included two trips - Intera Technology Park (business challenge day) and Rujište mountain (hike, tour/talks focused on nature and art).

Some facts about the programme:

- MSYP first ran in 2014 and has run every summer since.
- The summer Programme consists of 3 weeks of workshops, classes and events. They are held at UWC Mostar, American



aspires to be a hub for youth leadership, volunteerism, and entrepreneurship.

MSYP 2017 welcomed 72 registered participants and 11 teachers coming from Austria, Argentina, BiH, Croatia, South Africa, UK and USA.

Lectures and workshops available for participants this year included a number of various topics:

Lectures: Social issues and activism, Sustainability and environmental awareness,

Music, Creative writing, Site-specific art, Mental health awareness, Social media 'journalism' and online editing - Mostar Youth Platform, Sustainability and environmental awareness, Spontaneous public speaking, 'Alternative' Balkan histories, Fighting public sector corruption - Transparency International, Resisting gender stereotypes and inequalities - Be a Man Club Mostar, Project writing skills - AISEC Mostar, The anthropology of Balkan languages.

Corner Mostar, OKC Abrašević and other venues around the city.

- MSYP is free for participants.
- MSYP is funded by donations and benefits in kind from individuals, local companies, grant-making organizations and NGOs.
- From 2014 to 2016, a total of 160 participants have attended the Programme.
- 90% of participants are from Mostar; 10% are from other cities in BiH or from other countries.

PHOTO EXHIBITION "WINTER IS BEAUTIFUL"

By Mykola Sapronov, UWC Mostar student, Ukraine

"I believe that students of UWC Mostar carry a unique mission: make changes happen. Apart from the changes we foster in ourselves during these 2 years, I am personally convinced that we should leave the positive footprint on the surrounding society.

Honestly, I was very surprised when I realized that our school building has three different schools under its roof. I felt it would be amazing to break the ice by conducting a joint project. My inspiration came from the beauty of winter. Winter time is something we all experience regardless of our country, ethnicity or religion. I thought if I could make one photo exhibition that shows the beauty of winter in different parts of the world, in different parts of the Mostar, I would also create the atmosphere of unity in our school since I could show something beautiful we all share.

Over the winter break, I asked faculty members and students to send me the photos of winter landscapes in their counties. I also contacted our Art teacher Saša Šantić to request photos from students of Gimnazija Mostar. The first part of the exhibition took place in the Cultural Center "Abrašević". Later, we set the exhibition in the corridors of the Gimnazija building.

I would like to thank all people who helped me in this process or simply supported my idea. I believe that these initiatives are beneficial for our integration in the Mostar community."



Madison Betts, Canada



Castel del Monte, by Emilio Trotta, Italy.

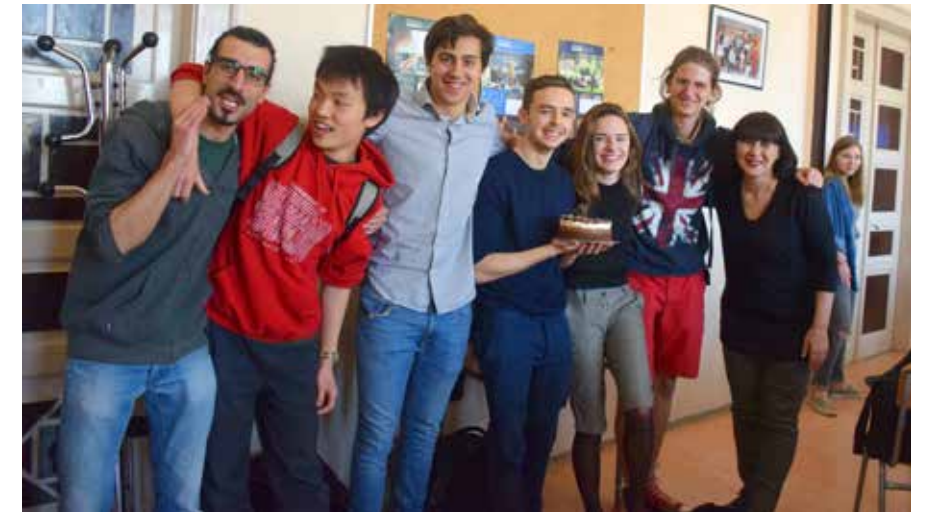


Competitions

CANTONAL PHYSICS COMPETITION

For the 5th time UWC Mostar hosted the Cantonal Physics Competition for both curricula taught in our Canton. The Competition included students attending secondary schools and elementary schools. The best students represented Herzegovina-Neretva Canton at the Federal Physic competition held in April 2017.

UWC Mostar students Miron Banjac and Anela Karamustafić achieved best results and won 1st place at the Cantonal Physics Competition.



FEDERAL PHYSICS COMPETITION

22nd Federal Physics Competition organized by Association of Physicists in Bosnia and Herzegovina was hosted by Gimnazija Mostar and UWC Mostar.

130 students from Federation of BiH participated in the competition and those with best results will represent Bosnia and Herzegovina at the 48th International Physics Olympiad in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

MATH COMPETITION IN VIENNA – WELCOMING CHAMPIONS

UWC Mostar students Ruijie Huang, Mykola Sapronov and Filippo Iulianelli attended ISMTF senior math competition in Vienna in March 2017.

As a team, UWC Mostar representatives were placed 6th out of 70 teams, and our student Ruijie Huang won the 1st place.



Foreign languages with Sports Academy "Little Bridge"

By Danijela Četković, Co-curricular Coordinator, UWC Mostar

UWC Mostar has great collaboration with the sports academy "Little Bridge" for years, especially in the area of various sports activities. This year we decided to broaden our collaboration and start a language school with the youngest members of the academy. The first step was organization of a workshop with children. UWC Mostar students presented many interesting world languages and reactions were extremely positive. The work-

shop took place on April 5th at UWC Mostar premises where our students presented Spanish, Italian, Polish, German, French, Chinese, Romanian and English language. The children were actively participating all the time and showed their great knowledge of English language. The plan for the next school year is to have regular workshops with members of the Sports Academy Little Bridge as a part of our CAS activities.





Banja Luka International MUN Conference

Traditionally UWC Mostar participated in Banja Luka International MUN conference which took place in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 28th to 30th April, 2017. Group of 8 students led by Co-curricular coordinator spent three days simulating the work of United Nations. BalMun also presented interesting events for all participants organized by the hosts from Banja Luka. UWC Mostar students Anika Inigo, Gema Benavides and Victor Mulsant positioned themselves among the best delegates at the BalMUN conference 2017.



Team building with Mostar student council

UWC Mostar representatives in Mostar Student Council, Selma Žuljević and Ivana Filipović, hosted a team-building workshop today. Over 40 students from all high schools in Mostar participated. The goal of the workshop was to improve communication within the Student Council to enable more successful implementation of future projects.

Members of the integration commission, Vanja Pešić, Matas Kvizikevicius, Allen Madrox and Mykola Sapranov, led a part of the workshop which brings UWC Mostar closer to Student Council members.

Summer School by Swiss Helsinki Committee at UWC Mostar

By Irma Husić-Pandur, Summer School "Challenge History" organizer

The Swiss Helsinki Committee in close cooperation with UWC Mostar and several other partners announce the organization of Summer School "Challenge History" which will take place from 16 to 21 July 2017 in UWC Mostar premises. The event will gather high school students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo. It will enable its participants to reflect on historical narratives, to compare historical narratives and challenge preconceived ideas about the past, to discuss with their peers possible ways of overcoming conflicts from the past and building a common future and to apply the acquired knowledge in their future education and activities.

Each of planned modules will be organized in an interactive way and be based on a variety of different formats, such as lectures, workshops, field visits, debates, discussions, case studies, creative activities, etc. Distinguished experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia will lead the modules. As a complement, cultural and evening side-events will be organized on the basis of participants' inputs. Many divisions and conflicts in the region have their origin in divisive memories and interpretations of the recent past. For this very reason, the Summer School "Challenge History" addresses the past in order to build a better future. Its aim is to encourage constructive debates on the legacies of the past among high school students from the Western Balkan.

Each of planned modules will be organized in an interactive way and be based on a variety of different formats, such as lectures, workshops, field visits, debates, discussions, case studies, creative activities, etc. Distinguished experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia will lead the modules. As a complement, cultural and evening side-events will be organized on the basis of participants' inputs. Many divisions and conflicts in the region have their origin in divisive memories and interpretations of the recent past. For this very reason, the Summer School "Challenge History" addresses the past in order to build a better future. Its aim is to encourage constructive debates on the legacies of the past among high school students from the Western Balkan.

SUMMER SCHOOL CHALLENGE HISTORY

16-21.7.2017.
MOSTAR
Bosnia & Herzegovina

The Swiss Helsinki Committee and its project partners are pleased to announce the Call for applications for the Summer School "Challenge History" which will take place from 16 to 21 July 2017 in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are inviting open-minded students of the final year of high schools from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo to apply for the Summer School. This 6-day event will enable its participants:

- 1) to reflect on historical narratives, particularly those related to the recent wars in the Balkans, and to engage in a constructive dialogue on these legacies;
- 2) to compare historical narratives and challenge preconceived ideas about the past;
- 3) to discuss with their peers possible ways of overcoming conflicts from the past and building a common future;
- 4) to apply the acquired knowledge in their future education and activities;
- 5) to network with young people from the region and have fun while learning together.

The Swiss Helsinki Committee, as the leading partner, implements this project in cooperation with Forum 212, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Eura Centre for Peace and Tolerance (Moscow), Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (Belgrade), and Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (Serbia).

Date

16-21 July 2017 (6 days) – participants will be required to attend all the sessions during the Summer School. The arrival day is on July 16 at 18:00 the latest. The departure day is July 21 not before 12:00.

Place

Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina – the accommodation will be organized in cooperation with the United World College, Mostar.

Costs & expenses

The organizers will cover all the costs of travel, visas, accommodation and meals during the Summer School. Members of the organization staff will accompany students on their travel to Mostar and back home.

Working language

English – participants must have working knowledge of English language.

The Summer School "Challenge History" will consist of the following four main modules:

Identity

Legacies

Shared narratives

Contrasting stories

Each of these modules will be organized in an interactive way and be based on a variety of different formats, such as lectures, workshops, field visits, debates, discussions, case studies, creative activities, etc. Distinguished experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia will lead the modules. As a complement, cultural and evening side-events will be organized on the basis of participants' inputs.

How to apply?

Interested students are invited to send a motivation letter in which they will briefly present themselves, describe their motives to apply for the Summer School "Challenge History", and explain why they believe such initiatives are important, point out in which way they could personally and as participants contribute to positive outcomes of the Summer School.

The application form together with the motivation letter should be sent to the Swiss Helsinki Committee via e-mail: info@shv.ch.org

Deadline: April 28

The 20 participants will be selected on the basis of their motivation to acquire additional knowledge and to engage in critical debates, and according to the frame of the basic application criteria to fulfil. The organizers are committed to the principles of equality and diversity and, therefore, we are inviting students of all genders and ethnic and religious backgrounds to apply.

Who can apply?

- Students of the final year of high schools from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia
- Who wish to learn about history of the region from an alternative perspective
- Who have sufficient knowledge of English language, so to be able to follow and participate in the sessions

DOBA project in Sarajevo

UWC Mostar students Hana Huskić, Ivana Filipović, Lejla Zjakić and Adna Mujić together with UWC Mostar teacher Irma Baralija, participated in the Simulation of the BiH State Government in Sarajevo (DOBA). A total of 45 students from 8 cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina were introduced to the political system of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Throughout the simulation, they were able to share their opinions about the system and make decisions. The project was organized by Druga Gimnazija in Sarajevo. More info about the project at www.bhdo.ba.



"The Human Face of Haggadah" - exhibition in cooperation with UWC Mostar

UWC Mostar hosted exhibition "The Human Face of Sarajevo Haggadah and the universal message of its story" from April 21st-May 5th 2017.

The exhibition is the work of students from IBDP Gymnasium Banja Luka presented in cooperation with Benevolentia association from Banja Luka.

The exhibition includes seven separate banners which presented the following topics:

- 1) Explanation - what is Haggadah;
- 2) The process of creation of the Sarajevo Haggadah;
- 3) Research of the Haggadah journey from Spain to the Balkans;
- 4) Presentation of illuminations and textual decorations of the Sarajevo Haggadah;
- 5) Mystery and significance of the Sarajevo Haggadah;
- 6) Images and descriptions of the history of the Jewish Community in BiH;
- 7) The story about Haggadah in Sarajevo during the war 1992-1995.

The purpose of the project is to present Sarajevo Haggadah and the significance it bears for the members of the Jewish community and all citizens of BiH as it conveys a message of peace, tolerance and respect of cultural values



Atlantic College Peace conference

By Vanja Pešić, UWC Mostar student, Serbia

"In February 2017 I have attended the Peace conference in Atlantic College with Johan Fode from Denmark and Nicholas Solem from Norway.

The welcome in UWC AC was very heart-warming and the sense of the UWC community could be felt. We were also joined by some other schools from England and Wales as well as UWC Maastricht.

The conference started with an opening speech from the school official and was later followed by other speakers who talked about their experiences on the topics of all sorts of discrimination.

Afterwards, students were divided into groups for workshops on different topics about peace and conflict in the past and present. This was followed by an MUN session and this model was followed throughout the whole conference.

What we were also asked to do is to talk about our school, UWC Mostar since it has a specific role in the community we live in. We started by talking about the location and history, followed by the work our school has been doing and ended with personal examples of our experience before and after coming to Mostar from the point of view of Scandinavians and a Serbian. Our speech had the best reactions and we received a lot of positive comments and congratulations afterwards.

It was an amazing experience and for this reason, a group of students is now working on organizing a similar peace conference in Mostar."



Study visit to Slovenia



In May 2017, the Foundation Education in Action organized a study visit for Chemistry, Biology and Physics teachers entitled "Science classes in Slovenian Gymnasia". The study visit was attended by 27 teachers from the following cities: Orašje, Sarajevo, Široki Brijeg, Stolac, Cazin, Grude, Banja Luka, Zenica, Bijeljina, Drvar, Čitluk, Mostar, Bugojno, Trebinje, Breza, Livno, Visoko, Novi Travnik, Kupres, Tuzla.

The Foundation, legal founder of UWC Mostar, has been working on offering professional development opportunities to educational workers, especially high school teachers from BiH. These opportunities are rare and therefore even

more valuable. In the last 11 years, the Foundation has implemented 24 workshops and 7 study visits to Slovenia and 3 conferences for more than 1200 participants.

"I have already encouraged our principle to get in contact with the Foundation and propose a cooperation. I would really love to give my contribution to educational reform processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina", a teacher from Zenica said after the visit.

The plan for the next academic year includes "on tour" workshops – visiting schools in different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and organizing workshops for teachers from that region.



Cultural weeks at UWC Mostar

Culture Weeks are designed to heighten students' awareness of the world. Certain weeks are designated to students coming from certain region(s), who are then expected to present their cultural region in diverse ways as the student group feels is right. During the intensive programmes, students prepare interactive presentations or workshops on food, folk dances, national myths, costumes, traditions, customs, rituals, geography and many other parts of their respective cultures, specific of their regions or countries. Before the feast,

the culmination of the week, kitchens are full of traditional meals and the weekends are usually reserved for theme parties with national costumes and traditional music. Cultural weeks at UWC Mostar are always a fun and a very important part of UWC Mostar community. Our students prepare the most amazing cultural feasts, and you simply must be a part of their wonderful presentations. Here is a tiny photo/poster glimpse of the events that students and staff enjoyed at the Latin American, Middle Eastern and African, Asian Union and North American cultural weeks!



GOLDEN UWC MOSTAR ALUMNA - MAIDA ELEZOVIĆ

By mostarski.ba

Maida Elezović, UWC Mostar alumna, Class of 2008, a competitor of International Shotokan Karate Federation USA (ISKF USA), has won a gold medal and 1st place at the USA Open 2017 in Las Vegas in the category "Women Advanced Kumite".



USA Open is one of the biggest competitions organized by the American Olympic committee and USA National Karate-do Federation.

Competitors from all over the world come to present their best skills and this year there were over 2500 competitors from 50 countries of the world.

Maida is a black belt III Dan – ISKF USA. As a member of the Karate club KK Student Mostar since the age of eight and she quickly advanced on local, state and international level and won over 200 awards for her success.

After leaving for USA Maida has accomplished top results on various competi-

tions in the states of Colorado, California, Alaska, Washington, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Nevada.

On state competition ISKF Nationals 2016, held in Pennsylvania, she won three gold medals (individual, team and team Kumite) and also won a special award – „Best fighting spirit award “.

In 2016 she became a Karate referee. At the age of 21 Maida graduated as a computer science engineer and currently lives and works in Denver, USA.

With her extraordinary results, Maida contributes greatly to the promotion of UWC Mostar mission and values, and is a great ambassador of the City of Mostar and BiH in the world.



A LIFE CHANGING JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD...

By Amar Granulo, UWC Mostar graduate, Class of 2015

With the world as its classroom and over 50 years of experience, Semester at Sea integrates multiple country study, interdisciplinary coursework and hands-on field experience for meaningful engagement in the global community. Over a 100-day voyage on a shipboard campus students are offered a variety of coursework gaining an experiential, comparative education that is truly global. In this summer issue join UWC Mostar alumnus Amar on his life changing journey around the world, travelling the most exotic corners of the world from Hawaii, Myanmar, India, South Africa, Japan and find out a little bit more about the amazing cultures of the world.

‘**B**eing admitted to UWC in Mostar was my first step towards achieving my life goals and becoming the person that I always wanted to be. By graduating at UWC Mostar, I eventually got the opportunity to go and study in the US. In my sophomore at Hood College, I got admitted to Semester at Sea Spring 2017 trip which definitely changed my life and helped me understand the uniqueness of our world. As I was sailing with the other 800 students across 10 different countries, I felt like I was having the time of my life, while at the same time I was learning a lot and being educated as never before. Different cultures, people, religions, geographies, food, sports and social conventions are just some of the things that I have encountered on this voyage that greatly impacted my feelings and future



”

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank Shelby Davis Foundation for giving me an opportunity to attend Semester at Sea and have this once in the lifetime unforgettable experience.'

goals. I have sailed through Hawaii, Japan, China, Việt Nam, Myanmar (Burma), India, South Africa, Ghana, Morocco, Germany and I had enough time to explore each one of these beautiful countries. After coming back from SAS, all of a sudden I was overwhelmed with so many questions about my trip and my impressions; however, one of the questions that many people have asked me was which country I liked the most? It is really difficult for me to answer this question because I truly enjoyed visiting all of them. I always stop for a minute and think about all my memorable moments from SAS before I answer this question. If I am going to choose my favorite countries on this trip that would definitely be Japan, Vietnam and Ghana. Japan was just breathtaking for me, the culture in this country is beyond anything I have encountered before. The people were so nice and friendly all the time and I have felt safe all the time while I was traveling in Japan with my backpack as a classic "tourist." Japanese gardens in Kyoto have amazed me to the point where I had to stop every 2 minutes to take some pictures. Even though Vietnam is not as famous tourist destination as Japan is, that is exactly what makes Vietnam unique to me. This beautiful country is full of amazing

nature landscapes, as well as small islands which most of us don't even know that they exist. Even though poverty rates are really high and people live on minimum salaries, people in Vietnam seem like they are always happy and easy going. Furthermore, sea food in Vietnam is one of the best in the world, and I was lucky enough to taste it and fall in love with Vietnam's sea food. Ghana was a different experience than Vietnam or Japan. I didn't know what to expect in general from Ghana, but it definitely opened my eyes towards some of the nowadays biggest world problems, which continent of Africa is mostly facing. When I came to Accra, there were no skyscrapers or modern buildings, it was mostly slums and old houses...However, I gained a wonderful opportunity to actually have a real learning experience by interacting with the local community and visiting some of the townships where the poorest people were living. The behavior of people in Ghana surprised me so much, they were all so warm welcoming and happy seeing the Semester at Sea students, which helped even more in adjusting to their culture. I also had experience of horse riding on the beach, watching a soccer game with the locals and visiting the Kakum National Park. This was truly an amazing and life changing journey...