



# Newsletter

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Winter - School Year 2014/2015

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KEPASS Programme Cooperation

The Knowledge Exchange Program for the Adriatic School System (KEPASS) is a project aimed at promoting undergraduates' mobility at the secondary school level, responding to the growing need of a challenging and high quality education system from young students and their parents. The main goal of this program is to give students, aged 17 or 18, the opportunity to attend, for a few months, a foreign school in another Adriatic country, stressing how every education system should emphasize the following aspects:

1. Challenge students to accept social and cultural changes, constantly growing in a more globalized environment, throughout the exposure to other cultures.
2. Allow students to broaden their possibilities in terms of universities' choices.
3. Empower students to be more competitive in the global labour market.
4. Learn though the experience and get to know languages and cultures of other Adriatic countries.

Project officially started in 2012, run by Italian Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in partner-



ship with UWC Adriatic and with State and Regional authorities and education agencies from Albania, BiH, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia. From September - December 2014, UWC Mostar had the pleasure of hosting 17 KEPASS programme students from Albania, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia who actively participated in the life and work at UWC Mostar. Within the programme students were exposed to different cultures and languages; they experienced new teaching approaches and curricula; and were involved in various extra-curricular activities. The transformational effect of the KEPASS programme is related to self-development, flexibility, inter-cultural competences, development of new skills and languages acquired.



News from Mostar Endowment "Bridge to the Future"

Mostar Endowment “Bridge to the Future” announces two more scholarships:

- The Yitzhak Rabin Scholarship will sponsor each year alternately one Israeli and one Palestinian student at UWC Mostar! The Yitzhak Rabin Center [www.rabincenter.org.il](http://www.rabincenter.org.il)
- The Captain Mbaye Diagne scholarship will sponsor a student from either Rwanda or Senegal at UWC Mostar in perpetuity! Association du Capitaine Mbaye Diagne - Nekkinu Jàmm [www.acmd-peace.org](http://www.acmd-peace.org)

THE YITZHAK RABIN SCHOLARSHIP

The Yitzhak Rabin Centre in Israel and the Rabin Family are honoured and excited to have a scholarship at UWC Mostar endowed in Yitzhak Rabin's name. UWC's mission of equipping the next generation with the knowledge, skills, leadership qualities and international values, necessary to bridge divisions is laudable. Certainly, education is the key which promotes understanding. My father, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Yitzhak

Rabin, dedicated his life to public service because he believed that if every person was equipped with the tools necessary to excel, we could create a thriving Jewish, democratic state in the land of Israel. In addition to my father's military and political legacy, he left an inheritance of social transformation in the fields of education, healthcare and national infrastructure as he persevered to equalize educational opportunity, reinforce the socio-economic

and geographic periphery of the country and strengthen minorities. The Yitzhak Rabin Center is the national institute dedicated to his memory and it serves as an education center and museum devoted to his legacy. Now more than ever, it is clear that healing the rifts in Israeli society and working to promote and protect the values of democracy, responsible leadership and peace are as relevant as they were the night of his assassination, November 4, 1995. Our experiential educational and outreach programs for soldiers and students strengthen civil society and reach out to the next generation of leaders. Like my father, the Center transcends differences between right/left, religious/secular and reflects the complexity of Israeli society. The Yitzhak Rabin Centre and UWC Mostar share a symbiotic mission

steeped in the tradition of advocating equality and social change. Both of us are doing our part. Over the past decade, we have been working with students and educators to empower individuals and communities, to promote tolerance and understanding, to instil the values of democracy and to nurture leadership so our younger generations have the knowledge and the tools to face the challenges that lay ahead. Your generosity ensures that my father's life's work will continue to impact Israel and the region for generations to come. It is my sincere hope that this scholarship will help bridge and connect students regardless of race and religion.

**Dalia Rabin - Yitzhak Rabin's daughter and Chair of the Yitzhak Rabin Centre**



THE CAPTAIN MBAYE DIAGNE SCHOLARSHIP

I am very honoured and proud at the creation of a scholarship in the name of my late husband. This must open our eyes and show us the way towards solidarity and towards love for our fellow human beings, for our country and our planet as the way to achieve any success. May the Lord assist us in all these endeavours and may the door of happiness be open to all of us. Such a great honour really touches our hearts as members of Captain Mbaye Diagne's family: this is why our children and I are



very grateful to the UWC; and indeed, the decision of the Mostar Endowment is a reason of pride for the Senegalese.

**Yacine Diagne - Widow of Captain Mbaye Diagne**





## European Anti-trafficking Day

The NGO "Novi put" in cooperation with UWC Mostar students and the elementary school "Mujaga Komadina", the 3rd and the 6th elementary school and the Association of young psychologists marked the European anti-trafficking day.

"Novi put" is an organization fighting against human trafficking and child abuse in BiH. "We wish to send a message about the presence of this problem in B&H, its recognizable forms and how to warn the younger generations about this. The

children who made illustrations today tried to express how they see the human trafficking and how they perceive child abuse, especially because they see children begging on the streets on a daily basis." – said the president of the organization Edisa Dedić.

According to her words, the most frequent form of human trafficking was sexual exploitation and work exploitation. UWC Mostar students joined "Novi put" and local students at Spanski trg in Mostar and marked the day of fighting against human trafficking.

## Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) program

This June I took part in the Science, Policy and Innovation section of the Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) program. I found out about YYGS program from the UWC Mostar college counselor in January 2014. I had heard a lot about leading political figures, whose alma matter was Yale, but the fact that YYGS was offering the SPI section as part of the summer program and moreover, the fact that this science-focused section was happening for the first time got me very interested. I had previously participated in summer programs with a focus on youth leadership and YYGS would be, as it proved to be, a total novelty.

After receiving a thorough welcome packet and being accepted in my top choice, SPI, I could fill in a questionnaire to choose my seminars. There was a gamut of topics to choose from, but I mostly focused on biological sciences. My seminars touched upon the philosophy of science, vaccines, vector-borne and noncommunicable diseases and GMOs. Seminars were seven, quite engaging and challenging and run by Yale students and YYGS alumni. They usually happened once in two days. It was a privilege being able to attend lectures by Yale professors on a daily basis. After each of them, I met with my discussion group and scrutinized the topic further. Halfway through the program, everyone participated in a simulation of a drought and each of us got the

chance to represent a particular stakeholder and understand the dynamics of decision-making in moments of crisis. Throughout the whole program, I also worked with three other colleagues in a project on mitigating surgical errors and held a presentation on that. It was a serious approach to an academic work and many elements of its construction helped me while writing my Extended Essay. Two weeks ago, Melina and I shared our experience in a YYGS info session at school. The attendees found it very informative. It was revealing to see how many of the students had questions that I had had, but had forgotten once confronted with the real environment at Yale. Many of the questions revolved around the scale of difficulty of the program. While I think YYGS is very transformative and chal-

lenging in a university-level way, I also think UWC Mostar and my IB subjects prepared me very well. I have my fingers-crossed for more

UWC Mostar students to attend this mind-changing program.  
**Rega Sota,**  
**UWC Mostar student, Albania**



## High School Fair

Six UWC Mostar students successfully presented UWC Mostar stand and all the privileges of being the member of our family at the annual Mostar High School Fair. The fair was held from October 18th - October 20th and in addition to school presentations also included numerous activities. A total of 22 high schools from the City of Mostar presented their programmed and activi-

ties during the Fair and this year we had the honour of being the co-organizers and hosts of the annual High School Quiz, which took place at UWC Mostar premises on November 19th. The High School Fair in Mostar 2014 was organized by the City of Mostar, Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to BiH.



## "Education without discrimination"

"Education without discrimination" is the name of the quiz contest which took place at UWC Mostar. The quiz was an integral part of the High School Fair 2014. Students from 22 Mostar high schools participated in the formation of 11 teams. The quiz contest dealt with topics related to human rights, conventions on protection and promotion of children's rights and education. Head of OSCE Mission to BiH, Ambassador Jonathan Moore attended the quiz contest and addressed the participants and organizers. He expressed his support and awarded top three teams of the day. The winners of the contest:

- 1st place - Internacionalna privatna gimnazija Mostar and Karadobegova Medresa
- 2nd place - Gimnazija Mostar and UWC Mostar
- 3rd place - Gimnazija fra Grge Martića and II Gimnazija

## Welcoming the German Parliament Delegation

UWC Mostar staff had the honor of welcoming the German Parliament (Bundestag) delegation on October 21, 2014. The visiting delegation

consisted of members of the German Bundestag Ms. Heike Hansel, Mr. Peter Stein and Mr. Uwe Kekeritz joined by the representative from BiH Mr. Sanjin Purgic and Mr. Frank Werner from the German

Embassy. The visit included a presentation on UWC Mostar, our work and impact as well as interesting and informative conversations with six of UWC Mostar students from Germany.

## Ukrainian delegation for the first time at UWC Mostar

On December 5th, UWC Mostar had the pleasure of welcoming 12 members of the Ukrainian Delegation for the first time. Representatives from NGO Kyiv educational center "Tolerance", NGO "Council of Young Scientists", Charitable organization "Light of hope", NGO "Centre for Enlightenment and Human Development", NGO "Youth Center for Regional Development", Vinitsa regional organization "Knowledge Society", Village Council, Ostrotya, Hertsavskij district, Cernovtsy region, Public Service of Ukraine in Poltava, Institute of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education of Lugansk Region, Department of Management Education, NGO "Democratic and social initiatives" and Representative office DVV International

in Ukraine were welcomed by the UWC Mostar management staff and informed about the work and impact in the local community. The purpose of the study visit was to learn new ideas and examples of good practices in the area of peace and conflict resolution, reconciliation, inter-religious and interethnic cooperation. The topic is of great significance for the Ukrainian people given the current situation in the country. The study trip has been organized within the project "Common future of Ukrainian society after the Maidan" implemented by DVV International and NGO Integration and Development Center for Information and Research from Ukraine, financed by the Federal Foreign Office, Germany.

## Helping the refugee camp

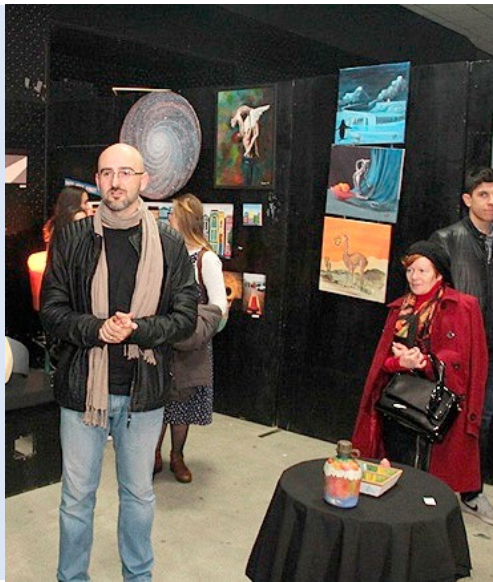
Every year in November UWC Mostar students organize the annual "Flea Market" with the purpose of helping the Refugee Camp Tasovčići. A great number of donations and visitors marked this year's market. Our students spent the day with the citizens of Mostar raising funds for the people of the refugee camp. We are pleased to say that the "Flea Market" action was extremely successful this year as well and all raised funds were donated to the Refugee Camp Tasovčići.





## Winter Arts Festival

The annual WAF 2014 took place from December 7th until December 11th 2014. Official opening of the Winter Arts Festival 2014 took place on Monday, 8/12/2014 with 3D modeling CAS exhibition in the premises of the Gymnasium Mostar. The programme continued with Visual Arts exhibition by UWC Mostar students and theatre play "Between Crime and Punishment" which took place at the Youth Cultural Center Abrašević. Winter Arts Festival programme 2014 also presents wonderful dance performances including "The Body talks" performances, and on the last days of the WAF all visitors had the pleasure to enjoy a concert honoring Human Rights' Day.



## Education for Peace

Peace school, organized by the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska, took place from October 20th until October 25th and was a wonderful experience for UWC Mostar students.

Forty one high school student from Mostar, Stolac, Ljubuški, Konjic and Berkovići participated and learned a lot about democracy and human rights, prejudice and stereotypes and break-up of Yugoslavia. Every night we would have a talk with a psychologist about activities of the day. After that we would have a theater session where we would relax and discuss different topics. We also visited religious buildings in Mostar. We first went to Catholic church where the friar told us a story about Franciscan church and important details about religion itself. The church

was built with the help of the Ottomans, and it was destroyed during the war and rebuilt after. We also passed by the cornerstone where Jewish synagogue is supposed to be. Later on we visited Karadobey's mosque, which is Mostar's most important mosque. Even though it has been damaged in the war, it is now renovated. During the visit we talked a little about the mosque itself, but mostly about religion. Some of us climbed the stairs of minaret to see the view from the mosque. After this, we went to the Orthodox Church and spent some time there.

The most interesting part was mentioning the war itself. Since BiH is a country of three equal nationalities, we went to visit three different concentration camps in honor of all victims. Three men were going with us and when we arrived back to the hotel they told the stories of their own experience from the camps. It was very hard for us to listen to those stories since they were really moving. We asked questions and those men answered with pure honesty. On the last day we made plans that we will have to put into action as soon as possible. The plans are about raising the

awareness of other people, we want to show that the war is over and that we have to be tolerant one to another in order to have a peaceful life in this beautiful country. This experience was more than amazing, I would repeat it any day. We have learned a lot, but also had so much fun while spending time together. We all made great bonds and our friendships have not finished after this event. I hope that one day we will fulfill our plans together.

**Mia Kajtaz,**  
**UWC Mostar student, BiH**



## Musical "The Bridge"

Project cooperation "The Bridge" between UWC Mostar and University of Agder, Kristiansand Norway, resulted in a successful musical performance at the Youth Cultural center Abrašević. The premiere of the musical took place on October 17th, 2014. The musical was directed by professor Arve Konnestad and professor Randi Eidsaa from the University of Agder, Norway. UWC Mostar visual arts teacher Vladimir Mičković and 17 UWC Mostar students along with UWC Mostar teacher Vesna Marić were part of the musical/acting ensemble. Musical incorporated the theme of



a modern version of Romeo and Juliette and has been performed in Israel and Switzerland and adapted to the audience and actors respec-

tively. The main intention of the musical project is cooperation and inclusion of musical traditions of students from all over the world.

## Central European Cultural Week

The Central European Cultural week 2014 presented Germany, Poland, Austria, Hungary and Czech Republic. The elaborate and very interesting programme of the week included various wonderful events. Hiking, Christmas cookie baking, traditional dances Polka, Waltz, Krakowiak, stories and fairytales at Club Aleksa as well as fun competitions were among the creative events UWC Mostar students presented for everyone to enjoy.



## Mostar Rock School concert

Music Center "Pavarotti" hosted the first concert of "Mostar Rock School" for the school year 2014/2015. Theme of the program was 50's and 60's music and UWC Mostar students were among 10 group performances. This was the first in a series of 5 thematic cycles and 5 program me concerts within the school year. For more info on "Mostar Rock School" please visit [mostarrockschool.org](http://mostarrockschool.org)



## Global Awareness - Human Rights Week

"Too often we are not aware of what is happening around the world. But we can learn, by being open and sharing. By being globally aware."

Human Rights Awareness Week at UWC Mostar started on Monday, December 1st, and presented interesting and valuable time for all participants. This years' schedule presented

lively discussions and covered a range of interesting world topics. The schedule included documentaries and topics such as Refugees' rights in Lebanon, Legitimacy of social protests, as well as Global awareness session on human rights and ethical globalization.





# Winter Gala 2014

Traditionally every year Winter Gala is the time for reflections and the day that students and staff spend to evaluate the past term. The most significant and most positive moments are always emphasized and shared as well as moments from which one can learn. Winter Gala 2014 took place in the Youth Cultural Center Abrašević with wonderful performances, thank you notes and kind words and as always it served as a beautiful closure of the year.



## "Laternelaufen"

St. Martin's holiday originated in France, then spread to Germany, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe. It celebrates the end of the agrarian year and the beginning of harvesting processions are held all around Germany on St. Martin's Day. Many children build their own lanterns in the run-up to November 11th. In the evening on St. Martin's Day there are lantern processions ("Laternelaufen" or "Laternenumzüge") in towns and cities all over Germany. UWC Mostar students marked the German tradition and celebrated the day with their own "Laternelaufen" in the City of Mostar.

# Clowning Workshop

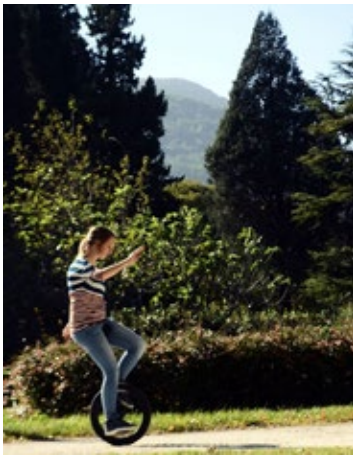
On a bright and warm afternoon, the Clowning Service CAS received a Mahindra College alumni, Marie Brittain, for a series of workshops. Throughout the weekend, clowns got together in the park to learn about a different approach to clowning - the Medical Clowning.

The activities Marie planned introduced the students to this approach, that focuses on using laughter as a medicine, healing other parts of patient's needs. The workshops consisted of improvisational games and other activities that help to prepare the students to situations they might encounter when clowning. The games aimed to show students how much non-verbal communication is essential when clowning, especially in a different country, and how much one must be able to rely on the group in order to make it work. Medical Clowning demands a lot of understanding and acute observations - and the activities in the workshop reflected that really well. Marie explained a lot of the elements that surround Medical Clowning, such as agency of the patient, bad clown



- good clown and the importance of entering the patient's space carefully. But one of the most important goals of this workshop was to bring up the students' inner clowns - to help them understand how their clowns react to situations, how they go about life, how

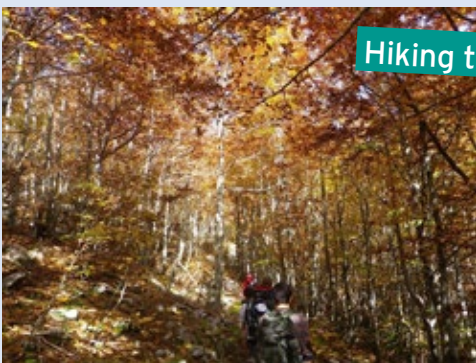
they feel, what they like to do. Finding your inner clown, as we saw from the workshop, is not an easy job at all! It takes a lot of practice, reflection and a lot of letting go. As a result from this weekend, the Clowning Service CAS has started thinking about expand-



ing its usual activities (which is visiting other Service CASes with skits) and actually starting to pay regular visits to Mostar's Hospitals to try to bring some joy and fun to kids that have to spend most of their times there. Clara Marques, UWC Mostar Volunteer, Brazil

# Project Weeks 2014

Project Week is a perfect opportunity for UWC Mostar students to experience the challenges and beauties of outdoor learning in a variety of adventures and projects organized throughout the country and nearby region. In a way, Project Week represents an extended community service, since it offers a great deal of flexibility and opportunities to plan, execute and learn from different experience. Students are challenged to apply their ideas in different areas ranging from different creative experience, challenging outdoor activities, active citizenship and social service in various institutions. UWC Mostar organizes Project Weeks in October every year.





Project weeks in the words of our students:

## Sarajevo Express - Volume I: Art Shots

You can't put a price on art - until you don't have enough money to pay your electricity bills. That was the thought most of us had as we walked around the Charlama Depot Gallery in the dark, guided by its owner and contemporary Bosnian and Herzegovinian artist, Jusuf Hadzifejzovic.

With a tiny torch he showed us around the massive gallery, where the walls were covered from top to bottom with works of artists from all over Europe. His collection of objects, paintings, plastic bottles, clothes and photographs was immense and we were lucky enough to get to know a bit about the stories they carried. Works from amateurs and renowned artists were exhibited side by side - Jusuf's philosophy

was horizontal, inclusive, motivational. In fact, the Charlama Gallery exemplified and expanded many of the topics our group discussed during the week: what is art? How can you define contemporary art? Who needs art? Is it for everybody? Our group saw Sarajevo as a breathing, living being. The goal of our Project Week was to explore its visual arts panorama, to discover the hidden places that hold treasures and narratives, to understand the context in which art is produced. For

that we wandered around, sometimes on our own, sometimes with others. We visited museums, especially the Ars Aevi collection and met with the Crvena Association for Arts and Culture and the Sarajevski Otvoreni Centar. The question then that arose was does art still have a purpose? What is the relationship between art and action? Can art change the world? How do people interact with the public space, especially in Sarajevo? Is art a priority? Should it be? As a result of all these encounters, we created a magazine as a collection of responses to all these questions, our own personal response to Sarajevo. Not a diary but a mixture of thoughts, of the effects the people we've met and the place we've been had on us. For us, art is a catalyst for reflection, it has the power to help us better understand our times,



ourselves and our context - and we hope that "Sarajevo Express - Volume I: Art Shots" helps you understand how we experienced and lived Sarajevo.  
Anonymous Artists



## Project Refugee Camp in Podgorica Montenegro

Six UWC Mostar students from Italy, Belgium, United States, Slovenia and Montenegro, worked with the kindergarten and primary school children from the Kosovo Roma refugee Konik Camps I and II. Creative arts and music workshops engaged children to express themselves, followed by sessions on maintaining both personal and collective hygiene in the camps. Finally, students distributed hygiene packages and clothes to the most needy from the community.

"I have never done any project like this before, working at a refugee camp, or with children from vulnerable groups. I have heard so much about people who are living in rather difficult conditions, here in the Konik Camp, so I decided to come and help the kids. Initially, I was quite shocked when I saw with my own eyes the conditions these people live in. However, working with the kids and seeing how energetic they are, as well as testifying to the commitment of people from the Red Cross - this was a really nice experience", said Ruaidhri Crofton, from USA. The Konik camps are located 3 km from the centre of Podgorica, in one of the most underdeveloped areas in terms of social, health, educational, environmental, and physical infrastructure. Currently, some 1.500 Kosovo refugees of Roma ethnicity reside in the Camps I and

II. Despite the efforts of the government, international and non-governmental organizations, a lot of work still remains to be done, as this community faces discrimination, exclusion and overall poor living conditions in the camp. "I chose to do this project because I am from Podgorica and I often heard about the camp. Although I have previously done volunteer work, I have never done this type of work. This is because I don't think people in the country are truly aware of the grave situation in the camp. With this in mind, I did not expect children to participate actively in our workshops. I also thought the children will be sad, due to the hard living conditions they are faced with. Amazingly, the children were very enthusiastic: they drew with us, they danced with us and it was beautiful", said Miljana Cadjenovic, Montenegro.

Children from the camps said they were happy to play and learn from the young UWC students. The teachers from the kindergarten and the primary school expressed hope such activities will be implemented in the future, as they are

invaluable for the development of the children.  
\*Article source: <http://www.un.org.me/news/1085/127/YOUTH-VOLUNTEERISM-WITHOUT-BOUNDARIES-TEACHING-BY-GIVING-LEARNING-THROUGH-RECEIVING>



## A week in Novi Sad, Serbia

From October 10th to October 13th a group of twelve United World College students, accompanied by a teacher, visited Novi Sad, Serbia, for their project week. This project week was imagined as a mixture of sports and service.

The first part of the project was running a race which is a part of the Novi Sad marathon. Each of the students, all recreational runners, ran a length of their own choice. The purpose of this race was to experience

running in a mass event and to test their own abilities. Zuzana Kureckova from Czech Republic won third place in the 25km race (in the U-18 female category). After getting some rest, the students prepared for the second part of the Novi Sad project : the visit to the special needs high

school SOŠO 'Milan Petrović' in Novi Sad. On Monday, the students arrived to the school, where they were welcomed by 20 students, the headmistress and the school psychologist. The students played games with the students and made water colour paintings. The UWC Mo-

star students were given a tour of the school and they even got the chance to try pastries made by the bakers educated in the school. The school focuses on providing students with knowledge which will allow them to find work after school. SOŠO Milan Petrovic also organizes workshops for adults where they can earn a symbolic income. The school also has boarding capacities for students who live outside of Novi Sad. The UWC Mostar students felt very welcome and the students from SOŠO 'Milan Petrović' enjoyed the activities. Hopefully this successful cooperation can be continued in the future to mutual satisfaction of both schools.

Ena Hašimbegović,  
UWC Mostar student, BiH



## Visiting Vukovar, Croatia

Traveling to a non-tourist city sounds boring and meaningless to many people, but to me, it is the best way to get to know and understand a place. Being a tourist, you have the advantages to experience a city as much as you expect, but being a traveller, I can always dissolve myself, neutrally without any expectations, into the local daily life and experience the living culture of the city. With this kind of traveller's attitude, I joined the exchange to Vukovar in my Project Week. Looking back at my journey, I would say this journey is a Metanoia, the journey of changing one's mind, heart, self, or way of life.

Searching "Vukovar", the images of the destruction in the recent war is always the primary suggestion given by Google. As Vukovar is currently one of the cities where the frontier between Croatia and Serbia is built right inside the city, it was also one of the battle-front-sites in the war. Walking through the city, there are always some destructive buildings beside the newly re-constructed city centre. My host family's student took me for walks around the city, I observed and felt so much in each 30-40 minutes walk. Inside Vukovar, other than those abandoned destructive buildings, you can also always find yourself a

beautiful and quiet park with no people. I still remember that there was a small grassland where a wooden cross stands straight among the lively green, where you can find peace and natural beauty of the city. Dandelions can also be found everywhere in Vukovar, a sudden and warm breeze comes along from the river brings a lots of dandelions' seeds flying in the air. The walks also allowed me to explore the city, other than its history, but also the sharing of people who live there and truly experience the history themselves. I was actually surprised by the attitudes of people there, although the war was just a recent period that happened to this generation, the bonds of history have become much more

looser, reflecting through meeting different nice and friendly locals. Talking with local students from Nicholas Tesla Technical School and the openness of the new generation inspired me a lot. By watching the documentary produced by them, the reality of the post-war city once was again presented in a different way. There are really too many beautiful elements in the city, including different people, different food, and different buildings, presenting the actual history and life of Vukovar. The city is even more beautiful during this reborn period, the true beauty is hidden inside every Vukovar local, where it was luckily discovered by me in this exchange trip. Being a Hong Kong 17 year old girl, I am

still too young too understand what is war and casualties. Quoting from the documentary produced by Vukovar local students, an old Croatian women said "You wouldn't know how people hate each other, until they start to shoot each other." Back in my hometown, rivalry starts to rise, within friends and family, among communities and society. Living in post-war cities, no matter Vukovar or Mostar, I am always learning from the history and people. Looking for a peaceful society, the root of the peace and harmony has actually long grown within everybody's hearts.  
Tim Yung, UWC Mostar student, Hong Kong



# Project “Money, money, money”

For our project week, we traveled to Sarajevo to complete economics research. First, we attended a meeting at the Chamber of Foreign Trade of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We were acquainted with Dr. Bruno Bojić, the Vice-President of the Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH, who gave us a thorough presentation on the purpose of the chamber, their mission, and their goals. We learned about the many under-utilized assets BiH has to offer, some of which were:

- a strategic location
- many available natural resources
- long traditions in different industry branches
- an abundance of industrial zones, attractive sites, & available — production facilities.

We also learned about the attractive sectors for economic investment in BiH, some of which include:

- metal
- wood
- agriculture & food processing
- construction
- tourism

In this meeting we discussed the main problem that the economy in BiH faces: the education systems are extremely out of line with the labor markets. We learned that this is due to the fact that overall, there is too much emphasis on individual interests and there is a failure to utilize statistics from the bureau of labor. Dr. Bojić also discussed with us different political aspects that affect the economy. At the end, he encouraged each of us present him a question. Since he mentioned

that the chamber was a non-government organization, I asked him why it was in the best interest of the economy to keep it private. He explained to me that it is to protect entrepreneurship and risk taking-key factors in developing an economy. Sometimes the government creates laws and regulations that can hurt economic risk taking, therefore the private status of the chamber allows it to work against laws that limit entrepreneurship. In our project week we also visited the

Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina and we were given an extensive presentation of the monetary and banking systems in BiH. We learned about the structure of the central bank, its members and all of the positions they hold, and the monetary policy. We learned about the origins of the various marks and the the process of developing a stable currency after many economically tumultuous years with the war. After the presentation, we were shown to a historical exhibition in which we observed a plethora of bank notes, bills, and coins from BiH in the past decades. This visit showed us how far BiH has come economically in the years following the war. We learned that dealing with inflation and stabilizing the currency with the Euro was not been an easy task to accomplish. Overall, it was an extremely enriching project week. We were able to bond as a group, to have interesting discussions with one another before and after our meetings and throughout all our time together. This project gave our group the incredible opportunity to complete economic research directly, to learn more about the country we are living in without ever having to open a textbook or complete research online.

Alisha Erozer, UWC Mostar student, USA



# Helpers of the Mother's Village

One of the most fulfilling experiences in life is that of helping others, regardless of their background and present standpoint. The goal achieved during the project week “Helpers of the Mother'sVillage” was far beyond expected, with students witnessing numerous yet unusual things (especially international students) and having said that, had their core beliefs wooed. During our visit to Medjugorje, we have visited St. Francis Garden, Mother's Village and Comunita Cenacolo as our primary aims of voluntary work.

We paid a visit to St. Francis Garden which is under the supervision of Mother's Village. Once arrived, we were warmly welcomed by members of St. Francis Garden who assigned us with our voluntary work. For the most part, we were cleaning the garden from leafs and other minor dirt accumulated due to high traffic caused by tourists. We spent the rest of the day occupied with our duties, as well as exploring the garden later on. What was fascinating were the figures, statues and the overall cleanliness of the garden. Under a positive impression, we headed back to Mostar, excited for what is about to come in the upcoming days. On our second day in Medjugorje we went straight to Mother's Village and

arranged a meeting with students (children) living there. The fun and resourceful aspect of the whole experience is the fact that children there have very diverse backgrounds, as well range from all ages. As introductory, we set up a study session with students who requested help in different subjects in which we were able to provide them with knowledge. Later on we had a long talk with them, incorporating a short interactive language “course” (including numerous languages due to the diversity of UWC students) and a general talk of what and how they see themselves now and in the future. This offered all of us a great perspective, and gave us a lot to think about. With all these thoughts and ideas, once again, we went back to Mostar, intrigued and happy for provid-

ing support. For the last day of our project, we really wanted to have a full round experience of Medjugorje, what it has to offer to the people from literally, all kinds of backgrounds. Upon arriving, we slowly headed towards Comunita Cenacolo, which is a Roman Catholic institution for all people that struggle with addictions. Once there, we were warmly welcomed by some of the members, including a man from the US and another man from Croatia, who have been there for quite some time. The first impression of these men was out of this world, their aura was positive and their smiles were precious. I must admit that personally, I was at that very moment influenced in a way that cannot be explained. They told us their life stories and struggles,

and we asked questions. So simple, but yet very effective because it served as a process of getting more grounded and in touch with the “inner being”, nature, God, or however you want to call it. This truly was a great experience, and once we headed back, our spirits were higher then ever. To conclude, I would like to express a deep gratitude for being able to have the opportunity to participate in such a great project, that has influenced me positively. We learned and experienced many new things, and that is the only way we can progress, by helping others and attaining knowledge through action and service.

Marko Rojnica, UWC Mostar student, BiH



# Sarah Heim - Making global impact

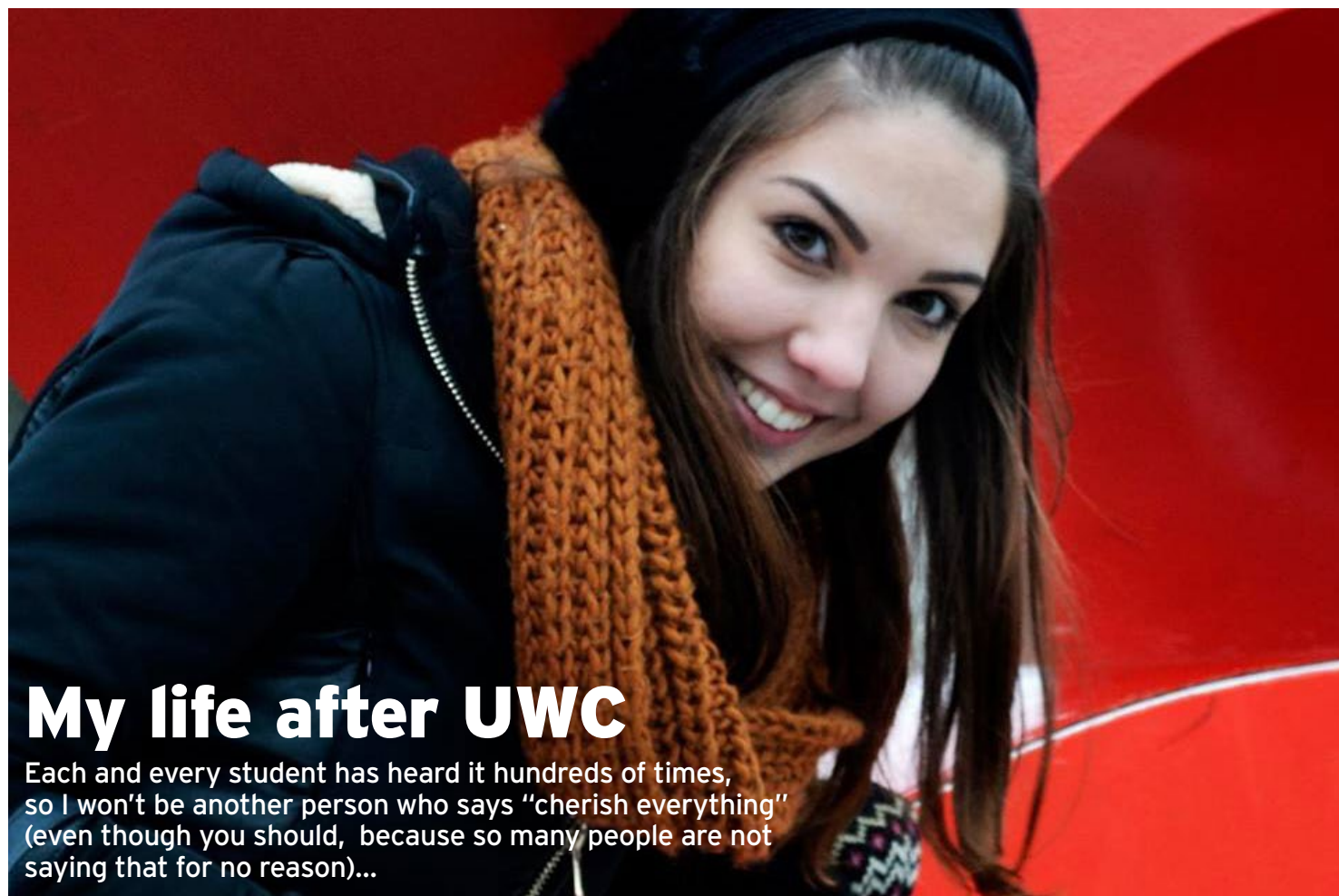
UWC Mostar alumna, Sarah Heim joined the Semester at Sea in making a global impact. Semester at Sea study abroad program is administered in conjunction with the University of Virginia as well as Enrichment Voyages, a Lifelong Learning Program, and the Forum on Global Engagement.

Mission statement of the Semester at Sea is to educate students with the global understanding necessary to address the challenges of our interdependent world. Their unique shipboard program integrates multiple-country study, interdisciplinary coursework, and hands-on field experiences for meaningful engagement in the global community. It introduces undergraduate students to global and comparative studies by focusing on structural and social changes taking place in the world today.

Sarah participated in the Social Innovation Challenge and along with other participants discussed ideas for using their knowledge and global education to make the world a better place. Students developed their own business plans to launch an entrepreneurial venture that would benefit the global community. Along with four other students - Dieneke De Weerd, Jacob Reshetar, Anna Roth and Tobias Rothof, UWC Mostar alumna Sarah Heim developed a business plan to sell “pape” socks made in the Tasovčići Refugee Camp in BiH. The idea was to help market

the socks the women in the camp are making. As a part of her CAS, Sarah has volunteered in the Refugee camp Tasovčići for two years and has a lot of knowledge of the situation in the camp as well as a personal connection to the local people. Her project shows her great commitment and wonderful entrepreneurial spirit which would benefit and help the people of the refugee camp. Project “Pape for People” is definitely making an impact and Sarah is carrying on the spirit, mission and values of UWC Mostar.





## My life after UWC

Each and every student has heard it hundreds of times, so I won't be another person who says "cherish everything" (even though you should, because so many people are not saying that for no reason)...

**D**ecision was made; you're going here or there, to study, to work, to volunteer, join the army or to enjoy in gap year. But "going" is the key word. And what happens then? After spending two years constantly surrounded by people who were/are exposed to the more or less similar conditions - living away from parents, interacting with peers from all over the world, struggling with IB, not having enough sleep and so on, our small UWC-bubble had burst. That feeling of me entering the bus and leaving Mostar for the final time, after graduation, is one of the most horrible feelings I've ever felt. It was difficult, but harsh reality is that life goes on. And just then you realize how much UWC actually did affect you. Whenever anyone had asked me during two years spent in Mostar have I changed, I would immedi-

ately say "No, I'm still the same person". The thing is, I haven't noticed those small changes, as they happened gradually throughout those two years, so only when it was all done I actually realized how different and matured I am. I grew up. In the most beautiful surrounding ever. Because UWC doesn't teach you only academics, or English language. It doesn't just make you more tolerant or teach you how to deal with stress and problems. Being in a place where teachers are firstly your friends, where you live with so many different people, where you take uncommon challenges daily and develop your personality and yourself more throughout every single experience, I can surely say that UWC teaches you, besides everything already stated and much more, the most important lesson - how to live. That kind of knowledge is impossible to get in any other school.

Let the world know that there is United World College movement, that there is a small place called Mostar which is for all of us the most special place in the world. Let them know how amazing it was, how many good friends we have met there, how wiser and more-aware of the world are we now. And let the world know that each one of us now has a whole world in the palm of a hand...

**Nataša Zlokapa, UWC Mostar alumna 2014**

### Upcoming calendar events

**January 12th**

Beginning of the second term

**February 2nd**

Trial exams start

**March 1st**

National Independence Day

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