

# Newsletter

**45** The United World College in Mostar  
Winter - Spring Year 2015/2016

**IDEA FAIR**

**KIDS FESTIVAL 2016**

**VISIT OF NASA ENGINEER NAGIN COX**

**AND...**

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF UWC MOSTAR**



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## 10 YEARS OF UWC

If we said it was easy, that would not be true. Living through the first 10 years of UWC Mostar has been a joyful struggle. But we are here, standing firmly and ready for new challenges and successes.

**O**n May 22nd 2016, UWC Mostar and many guests, parents, friends, supporters, alumni and current students celebrated the school's 10th anniversary. It was a moment to reflect on all

the challenges, but also the great success the school has achieved against all odds. This event was also a valuable networking opportunity for all the people who have been giving their personal contribution to UWC Mostar over the years and it allowed them to



discuss the new perspective and plans for the future. "UWC Mostar celebrates today 10 years of start-up history, start-up mentality, start-up people. That start-up has educated almost 800 students (including current 1st years). 1000 Bosnian teachers have taken part in workshops. The wider influence of the work has even led to court rooms: UWC Mostar has been used to make the case against segregated educational system in this Canton", Pilvi Torsi, Head of the Foundation Education in Action Board said. The Headmistress Valentina Mindoljević used to opportunity to solemnly announce the

Jasminka Bratić Scholarship, one that has been set up in the name of our beloved School Board Chair, who has invested so much passion and effort in helping the school get a firm ground and follow its unique mission in the City of Mostar. The guests were also addressed by Head of the Council of Europe Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also member of the Foundation Education in Action Board, Mary-Ann Hennessey, who praised the role of the College in giving quality education to youth from all over the world, while at the same time critically reflecting on the numerous educational challenges that still prevail in BiH.





## UWC Mostar Mourns Passing of Former Board Member Srđan Dizdarević

It is with deep sorrow that UWC Mostar community has learned of the passing of a great man, human rights activist, and former president of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in BiH and former member of UWC Mostar Governing

Board, Srđan Dizdarević. Srđan was born in Sarajevo in 1952. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo and studied political sciences in Paris. He has been serving as the president of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in BiH for nine years and

was a distinguished member of the UWC Mostar Governing Board from 2009-2010. We honor his memory through our shared mission of promoting peace, human rights and understanding and we extend our sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones.

## Ahmad Yassir at the Mostar University Forum

In mid-January, I was fortunate enough to participate in the European Youth Parliament's (EYP) University Forum. I had this opportunity as one of my colleagues and co-years at the United World College in Mostar had other obligations, and I was happily ready to take his role. The EYP is a simulation of the debates in the European Parliament, and is facilitated for the university students of Mostar. In the conference, I acted as the chair of the Economy Council. It was a challenge to learn the EYP procedures as they are quite different from what I'm used to in our MUN CAS, but after making myself familiar with them, the debate was fun and rewarding. The topic we discussed was: "What steps should BiH undertake to implement the Reform Agenda in the best and most time-efficient way, in order to secure its 'still favorable' position and relations with the EU,



which could easily deteriorate due to its non-fulfillment?" For the duration of the conference, I lead solution-oriented discussions on the limitations in the economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina together with my council. Being from Lebanon, the debate taught me a lot

about the country I live in. In the end we finalized a formally written resolution with the suggested recommendations that were developed through the debate. The council I was leading won the "Best Council in the Forum" Award. University Forum was the

## UWC Mostar Supports the Preservation of Eco Systems

The project "Schools and NGOs United to Preserve Health of the Neretva River", financed by the US Embassy in BiH and implemented by Eko-Most Association, organized its closing workshop at UWC Mostar. The aim of the project was to offer basic information about the condition of Neretva river ecosystem to students, volunteers and NGO representatives, as well as to point to the various factors influencing the pollution of the river system. "UWC Mostar is a tourist city and foreign visitors often take walks around the Neretva river bank. We have, therefore, inspected the ground and found lots of garbage. We want to give our contribution, set up sitting benches and create a nice environment", UWC Headmistress Valentina Mindoljević said.

very first Forum of European Youth Parliament BiH for University students, held in Mostar in January of 2016.

Ahmad Yassir (Lebanon, UWC Mostar 2nd year)

## Nagin Cox visits UWC Mostar

"Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail." (Ralph Waldo Emerson).

UWC Mostar had the great honor to host one of NASA's most successful female engineers Nagine Cox, who gave an inspiring presentation to a large group of students from several highschools in Mostar and United World College in Mostar.

Nagin Cox served as a systems engineer and manager on multiple interplanetary robotic missions including NASA/JPL's Galileo mission to Jupiter, the Mars Exploration Rover Missions and the Kepler telescope mission to search for earth-like planets around other stars. Big thanks to the United States Embassy to Bosnia and Herzegovina for making this event possible!



## Graduation of Generation 2014-2016!

In May we also said goodbye to 86 students from the class 2014-16! In a moving ceremony attended by friends, family and staff we enjoyed a variety of performances and moving speeches. The students

were solemnly handed their diploma by super popular Brano Jakupović from Dubioza Kolektiv! May all the luck and happiness be with you in your future academic, professional and personal lives!



## UWC Congress 2016

Want to join 500 alumni, national committee members, board members, chairs, school and college representatives, staff and the wider community to discuss climate change, increasing global inequality, conflict and persecution displacing more people than ever before and many more interesting topics? Join the UWC Congress 2016 on 28/29 October in Trieste Italy for two days and engage in discussions about UWC education,

strategy and more to shape the direction of the movement over the next decade. Find more information on the a website, Instagram or Facebook event. Envisioning a promising future and the role of the UWC movement therein, while at the same time facing internal challenges and staying a strong educational force will be in the focus of discussions at the UWC Congress to be held in in October 2016 in Italy. #uwccongress



## Winter Gala 2015

Our beautiful students gathered for the traditional Winter Gala to celebrate the ending of the winter term. Pictures say more than words, enjoy!



## Winter Arts Festival 2015

The creative potential of our students and teachers has once more been demonstrated during the Winter Arts Festival 2015!

This year we have enjoyed the Gallery of live paintings, a photo exhibition of our students Amer and Ena in Abrašević. With the purchase of those pictures visitors could support a worthy humanitarian cause. Furthermore, visitors enjoyed in a workshop of creating robes out of trash - Trash Fashion show, Visual Art exhibition, Modern Dance Performance and Theater performance. Big thanks to our visual arts teacher Saša Šantić and all our students and staff for the great work!



## Robotics

UWC Mostar robotics team "Spirit of United Neretva (SUN)" and three mentors participated in this year's international robotics competition FIRST in Tel Aviv, Israel from March 8th to March 10th. Based on the theme from the game Stronghold, our team spent six weeks building a robot that can pass hurdles and throw a ball directly into the marked target on the castle.



## MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2016

UWC Mostar students have worked tirelessly to organize the 10th Model United Nations Conference for highschool students from Mostar and many external guests. They worked hard to ensure that the standard of this Conference and the commitment to the delegates is of the highest quality.

Guest of Honor was Finnish Ambassador for BiH and Croatia H.E Timo Rajakangas. The topic of this year's Conference was "Unity across borders", promoting international collaboration and cooperation. This theme was promoted in 4 different councils: Security Council, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, and Human Rights. Each council was run by specially trained student chairs that helped to shape the flow of the debate

and provide useful insight and feedback for delegates. „We are the first high school in the Balkans to be hosting an MUN conference. I think it develops critical thinking, debating and speaking skills, but I'm also worried that the UN does not function to the benefit of everyone, and I have the feeling that it is often helpless. I would like to have students visit MUN for the purpose of rethinking how to improve things and expanding their knowledge on current issues.“ UWC Mostar Headmistress Valentina Mindoljević commented.

## Open Day 2015

Open Day 2016 was held on Saturday, February 13th for highschool students from BiH and their parents, who were interested in learning more about the scholarships and conditions of the selection process. UWC Mostar staff and students presented the College life in all its aspects, such as the academic program, local community volunteering and living the residencies. Visitors were guided through the school premises and received brochures with the above-mentioned information. UWC Mostar organizes this event every year with the idea to encourage highschool students from BiH to apply for one of the 30 scholarships offered to local students. Additional five scholarships are offered to students who want to study at other United World Colleges.

## Kids Festival 2016

UWC Mostar was happy to host wonderful little guests from: Los Rosales, SOS Kindergarten, Association for children with disabilities "My hope", Egyptian village, Radobolja kindergarden, MoStars dancers, Majorettes from Čapljina and many more for the fourth Kids Festival organized on April 1st. We especially grateful to the City of Mostar for the kind opening remarks of Radmila Komadina, Chief advisor to the Mayor and our sponsors R&S Sarajevo, Antonio Commerce Ledo and Coca-Cola HBC.

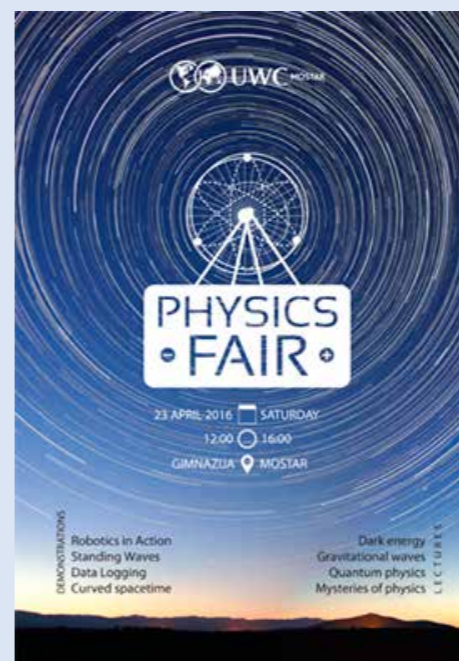


## Physics Fair

The Physics Fair serves a double purpose for it is beneficial to both, the UWC Mostar students who run the Fair and the actual guests to whom the Fair is targeted. Through preparation for the Fair the students gain the perspective of an educator whose main goal is to raise curiosity about science. The students, through their passion for physics, prepare their activities (lecture or presentation) with great care so that the quality of delivery is as high as possible. Also, due to the rota system of the Fair, the students quickly discover that they can learn from and thus improve their own work by its repetition (each student has to repeat his/her activity several times during the Fair for a rotating group of guests). The guests are high school physics enthusiasts from Mostar and nearby towns, often with the assistance of their teacher.

(by Giovanni Liverani and Josef Švec) and Mysteries of Physics (by Marta Nowotka and Hira Ahmed with support from Maja Schimdt). The demonstrations included: Standing Waves (by Ivan Zovko and Khuda Burdi), Robotics in Action (by Ahmed Kamal and Stjepan Vrbić), Data Logging through Projectile Motion and Electromagnetism (by Josh Carpeggiani and Yahya Muhyiddin) and Curved Space-time (by Ashley Lo and Mateusz Jurecki).

**Mateusz Jurecki, Physics teacher UWC Mostar**



## Candles for Syria

On March 17th UWC Mostar students marked a grim anniversary: FIVE years since the beginning of a disastrous conflict in Syria that left hundreds of thousands dead, wounded and millions of displaced persons. Tonight our students lit candles and called for compassion and understanding! Our student Marwan Safarjalani, originally from Syria, has initiated this meaningful awareness-raising initiative.

## Northern European Cultural Week

The Northern European Cultural Week was held at the end of February 2016. The "organizers" included 18 students from the following countries: United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Finland, Lithuania, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Greenland.

Within this week it was our task to present/ represent our countries the best possible way - stereotypes were for sure reinforced :) We held a British tea party, which was combined with our Opening Ceremony; fun Dutch games; Greenlandic Kaf-femik, etc. Furthermore almost each country screened a movie from/ of their country. We ended our cultural week with a blast by organizing the Closing Ceremony in the study room of our school (the Spanish Room). The whole day we prepared traditional dishes from our respective countries. Everyone had to prepare one main dish and one dessert. We had enough food to even feed 20 more people. The scent of cinnamon buns, lamb soup and meatballs was mixed with the beautiful sound of performances that each country had to do. Even though the cultural week was on top of all the stress IB causes, I feel that it ended up being very successful. And of course not everyone worked as much as others, but even the smallest input was appreciated. We look forward to learn about other cultures in the upcoming cultural weeks.

**Mallina Vahl (Greenland, UWC Mostar, 2nd year)**



## 9th Idea Fair

In December 2015, the Association for Creative Learning PLUS organized the 9th Idea Fair, in cooperation with UWC Mostar. We were happy to host high-school students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina and give them the opportunity to listen to inspirational talks from Božidar Mihajlović (activist), Marjana Tomaš (Psychologist & University counsellor at UWC Mostar) and Orhan Maslo (Music Center Pavartti). The idea behind the project is to stage successful public life figures to serve as an example and inspiration to young people and encourage them to turn their innovative ideas into action.



## Little Home Orphanage and UWC Mostar

It is our responsibility to care for the less privileged, even if they are across the globe in a small African village in Central Kenya. For the second year in a row, UWC Mostar students and their Croatian language teacher Ivona Sušac are supporting Mali dom (St. Anthony Small Home Orphanage, Lower Subukia, Kenya) action, by purchasing friendship bracelets. Croatian missionary Miro Babić has dedicated the past 12 years of his life helping orphans lead a dignified life, with health care and education and regular meals every day. Giving small contributions for a great impact is what makes our efforts so valuable!



## Mali Most Caring for Athletes

UWC Mostar was proud to host a lecture organized by Sports Academy "Mali Most" on the importance of physical activity, fair play and healthy eating of athletes! The activity is carried out within the project Dialogue for the Future.

## "History - Lessons for today" - Project of the Anne Frank House

UWC Mostar is proud to be part of the "History - Lessons for today" project locally implemented by Youth Initiative for Human Rights in BiH and Foundation Humanity in Action in cooperation with the Anne Frank House. The project encompasses a traveling exhibition showing the story of Anne Frank, as well as stories of ordinary heroes from WWII and the 90s war in BiH. Our students, along with students from Gimnazija Mostar, have participated in the Peer guide training, as they were the ones taking school classes from Mostar through this wonderful exhibition in Herceg Stjepan Kosača Cultural Center.

## Earth Hour

On March 19th, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Adria and traditional local partners: UWC Mostar, Association Ekmost and Rock School Mostar marked the Earth Hour 2016

Several activities were organized as part of this massive awareness raising campaign related to climate change, but the most important one was switching off the lights on the Old Bridge in Mostar followed by an unplugged musical performance of Mostar Rock School members. We believe that the way we act today, determines what our future is going to look like! It's a big responsibility!

#ChangeClimateChange  
#WWF



## Cantonal and Federal Physics Competitions for Highschool Students

For many years UWC Mostar has been the host to the Herzegovina-Neretva Cantonal Physics Competition for both curricula taught in the

Canton. The three best-ranked students from both curricula then took part in the Federal Physics Competition organized at the Faculty for Natural Science in Sarajevo in the following categories: Mechanics

& Thermo-mechanics; Oscillation, Waves & Electromagnetism; Optics & Atomic Physics; Overall Physics. Participation in the aforementioned competitions allows students to show their talent and deepen their

interest and knowledge in Physics, as well as to meet peers from other schools and Cantons. UWC Mostar takes great pride in facilitating and supporting the organization of these events.



## International Days at Ruđer Bošković

International Days at Ruđer Bošković were an incredible opportunity for UWC Mostar students to discuss with their peers from the region about critical issues like crisis, freedom and the rise of the right in economic freedom. Ruđer Bošković organized its 5th International Days with students from across the region (Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina). The aim of the International Days was to promote the active role of students as future leaders in creating economically and politically stable environment in times to come. The experience was tremendously rewarding for all of us with establishing cooperation and participation with the group of students in activities like role playing. In general, we were able to put our UWC values to use by cooperating with different people across the region to find better approaches to solving such critical issues.

*Getzemanj, Giovanni, Jelena and Petar*



## UWC Mostar Students at the World Scholar's Cup

Yes, we are totally going to brag about the great success of our three students at the World Scholar's Cup (WSC) held in Ljubljana on March 2nd 2016. WSC is an international team academic program with students from over 40 countries participating. Despite technically being a competition, WSC focuses far more on bringing students from different cultures together to discuss issues and ideas relevant to today and the future. The team consisting of Muamer Brka, Safiya Rajwani and Kristian Olsen won the Overall Second Place at the Competition (TEAM TROPHY) and many other team and individual awards.



## We Have a Champion!

UWC Mostar student Andrej Grubišić is one of the awarded top athletes of the City of Mostar in the year 2015. Andrej is repeated junior tennis champion of Bosnia and Herzegovina, winning his last title in February 2016 at the Tennis State Championship Tournament held in Široki Brijeg. Congratulations! We are proud to have this talented young man in our student body!



## Our Alumni are Rocking It!

Orhan Rokša, UWC alumnus, currently a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma, was among five recipients of the prestigious 2015 Rita H. Lottinville Prize. OU Foundation President Guy L. Patton presented the awards to the students in December last year and assured that the recipients will have a high standing at the University. Orhan graduated from UWC Mostar in 2014 and is currently studying mechanical engineering at the University of Oklahoma. This important reminder shall reinforce our determination to be a "lighthouse for education" in Bosnia and Herzegovina and stay true to the mission and values of the UWC Movement.



## Amer Begović at EYP

The 2nd National session of European Youth Parliament had around 70 participants, and it was my great honor to be one of them. I was in the LIBE committee (Committee for human rights), and our topic was about making the LGBT community safer in Balkan countries while keeping equal protection for all citizens. It lasted for four days. The first day we had creative workshops to get

to know each other. The second and third day we had committee building and writing resolutions, and last day was in the parliament building where we presented all of the resolutions and debated on them. This was one of the most successful sessions as all seven resolutions passed, and it was the first session in Bosnia & Herzegovina on which a resolution supporting LGBT rights passed so I'm very proud of my council considering

that. At the end I got chosen as one of the six best delegates and with that qualified for one of the next International sessions either in France or Switzerland. Overall it was a truly great experience where I learned a lot and met a fair amount of incredible people.

**Amer Begović**  
(BiH, UWC Mostar, 1st year)

## MUN in Banja Luka

Model United Nations Banja Luka was hosted by our partner school Gimnazija Banja Luka. The Conference was attended by members of UWC Mostar MUN CAS, who represented our school in the following bodies: Security Council, Development Committee, Economic and Financial Committees, Environmental Committee and Health Commission. Lastly, awards were handed out to the outstanding delegates. Honorable Mention in the Security Council: Syed Arsalan Ghani Best Delegate in the Development Committee: Ahmed Yassir Best Delegate in the Social and Humanitarian Committee: Zafar Ali



### IMPRESSUM

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