



"Building bridges between people and cultures through inspiring, quality education"

UWC Mostar Alumni Newsletter – Second Issue - Summer 2025

A Community Rooted in Peace and Progress

Since its founding in 1962, UWC has sought to transform education into a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. At UWC Mostar, we proudly carry that legacy forward - welcoming students from every corner of the world to learn, live, and grow in a deliberately diverse community.

This newsletter is a celebration of our alumni—the changemakers, listeners, builders, and thinkers who continue to embody UWC values in their everyday work.

Alumni Engagement

April: Psychological Wellbeing Month

This spring, we hosted Alumni in Psychological Wellbeing Month, highlighting the important work our graduates are doing in mental health, therapy, neuroscience, and human development.

Monika Vaclavkova (UWC Mostar '14–'16) returned to campus from the Czech Republic to share her journey in psychology, neuroscience, and sleep medicine.

After earning degrees in Utrecht and Oxford, and working in mental health research and clinical practice, Monika now consults for the European Sleep Research Society and delivers workplace therapy across Europe.

She gave a compelling talk on the science of sleep, sparking curiosity, laughter, and lots of follow-up questions from students. We're deeply grateful for her visit and the time she spent connecting with our community



Alumni talk

Monika Václavková

Sleep science and tips for your life

Understanding the process and importance of sleep

- 2014-2016 alumna
- Psychologist

TIME & PLACE:

MAY 5TH , 16:00, VELIC COMMON ROOM

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/monikavaclavkova/>



Exploring Ancient Wisdom and Modern Minds

Isa Pašalić ('20), now a psychologist, writer, and philosopher, joined us for an informal yet intellectually rich discussion on his current research.

Blending ancient spiritual traditions and early medical theory with modern psychotherapy, Isa introduced students and staff to fresh, holistic perspectives on the human psyche. We look forward to watching his unique contributions grow - and you can read more about his work in [this pamphlet](#).



Alumni talk

Theresa Leidinger

Memory Reconsolidation - Can we erase memories?

Technique of re-writing fear memories for the purpose of lasting change

- 2017-2019 alumna
- Psychologist

TIME & PLACE:

APRIL 25TH, 16:00, ZOOM

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/theresaleidinger/>

Theresa Leidinger ('19) joined us virtually from Germany to speak about her work in memory reconsolidation - an emerging field that explores how traumatic or fear-based memories can be “rewritten” to reduce anxiety and phobias.

Her insights sparked thoughtful discussion on how modern psychology can evolve to create more lasting healing. Theresa also graciously offered mentorship to any students interested in this path.

We were happy to also welcome her in person during the alumni reunion!



Alumni Reunion 2025 — What a Weekend!

From splashing by the river to deep conversations over coffee, our latest UWC Mostar Alumni Reunion was full of connection, inspiration, and generosity.

We welcomed:

20 alumni from the Class of 2015

16 alumni from the Class of 2020

5 alumni from the Class of 2010

And a few more from 2014 and 2019

We laughed, reminisced, and exchanged ideas about the school's future, and reflected on involvement with the old home that is UWC Mostar, in different way. Whete its stepping up to mentor, support national committees, or contribute to campaigns like EUR1.

One of the highlights was our student art auction, raising funds for scholarships. A big thank you to those who purchased pieces - your support means the world.

- ♦ Nefeli Protopsalti (Greece, '20)
- ♦ Ivan Pejić (BiH, '15)
- ♦ Bono Siebelink (Netherlands, '15)
- ♦ Eirik Oscar Wichstrøm Liberg (Norway, '15)
- ♦ Erin Rose Johnson (USA, '20)
- ♦ Jonathan Angell (Canada, '20)
- ♦ Mevludin Isic (BiH, '14)

- ♦ Theresa Leidinger (Germany, '19)
- ♦ Maja Pandza (BiH, former staff)
- ♦ Johanna Tikkala (Finland, '20)
- ♦ Slobodan Mentovic (Montenegro, '14)
- ♦ Inas Gacanin (BiH, '15)
- ♦ Marlene Leiss (Austria, '19)
- ♦ David Busley (Germany, '20)
- ♦ Ruby Ellen Tode (Netherlands, '15)
- ♦ Marta Manzin (Italy, '15)
- ♦ Mandula van den Berg (Netherlands '15)
- ♦ Nadia Asri (UK, '15)

Thank you also to all alumni who took part in the reunion! The remaining funds from the reunion weekend have been transferred as a donation to the school.



Welcome to our new UWC Mostar endowment students and our new Palestinian endowment scholar!

This academic year, we are proud to welcome 25 new students supported by the Bridge to the Future UWC Mostar Endowment, alongside 25 returning second-year students. Since 2014, the endowment has enabled 211 students to attend UWC Mostar, opening doors to a transformative education regardless of financial background.

A significant milestone this year is the arrival of Mais, a student from Gaza, who joins the Class of 2027 as the first recipient of the new Palestinian Endowment. Her journey to Mostar was long and complex, involving months of coordination across ministries, consulates and humanitarian organizations. Mais's full tuition is covered through a newly established Palestinian endowment, and thanks to the generosity of UWC Mostar alumni, she will also receive additional support for living expenses.

Her presence on campus is a powerful reminder of what the Endowment makes possible and how, even in the most difficult circumstances, access to education can prevail through collective effort. In Mais' her own words: "UWC Mostar was the rope that pulled me out of the well, giving me the chance to climb toward hope and to dream again, after two years without any education."

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making this possible, and we invite you to keep building bridges to the future.

Please consider supporting Bridge to the Future as even small contributions, such as joining the EUR 1 campaign, can help create life-changing opportunities for future students.

To donate or learn more about our matching schemes, please visit the [Endowment donation page](#) or contact us directly.

Stay connected with UWC Mostar—We're stronger together.

Reconnect and Reflect: UWC Mostar Peace Conference & UWC Day 2025

This year's UWC Day 2025, under the theme Together We Change, honors the UN International Year of Peace and Trust.

Alumni are warmly invited to join us for the UWC Mostar Peace Conference 2025: Stories of the Past, Visions of the Future on Friday, September 19th. Through panels, flash fiction readings, and interactive workshops, we'll explore storytelling, belonging, and peacebuilding within our diverse community. Alumni can attend as audience members or workshop participants.

To continue the celebrations, join us on the Spanish Square on September 20th for our traditional Around the World in 80 Minutes event - a festive gathering of food, culture, and connection. If you're nearby, we'd love to see you there!

UWC Innovation for Impact Forum in London - Saturday, 27 September 2025

The event will feature alumni stories, networking opportunities and a livestream option for those outside London or the UK. It is open to alumni and supporters from all schools. We encourage you to share it with your networks, and you can find the registration page [here](#).

Looking Ahead: 20 Years of UWC Mostar!

In 2026, UWC Mostar will celebrate its 20th anniversary!

Plans are already in the works for a major alumni reunion, and we can't wait to welcome you all back to Mostar for a weekend of joy, reflection, and celebration. Reach out with your ideas and stay tuned in our next newsletter for dates and details!

Stay Involved!

Whether you want to:

- Mentor current students

- Join the alumni giving campaign:

<https://mostar.roderickhouben.com/alumni.html>

- Join your National Committee

- Share your business, project, or story in the next issue

We'd love to hear from you!

UWC is lifelong, and your continued involvement shapes the future of this movement.

☐ Contact us:

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Thank you for continuing to embody the UWC mission — wherever you are in the world.



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