ISSUE NO.9 : APRIL/MAY 2022

THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



Mantas On The Move







"There exists within everyone a grand passion, an outlandish thirst for adventure, a desire to live boldly and vividly through the journey of life."

- Kurt Hahn

Class of 2022 Graduation



The Graduation of the UWC Thailand class of 2022 was a celebration of the many successes of the class of 2022, as well as a recognition of the resilience, kindness and togetherness this class has shown throughout such a challenging two years.

The consistent theme throughout the graduation was the hope and expectations that the class of 2022 continue to live the UWC Mission and Values as they move into the next stages of their lives.

These included a call for the class of 2022 not to look away from the challenges the world faces, but to instead be engaged and to take responsibility for having inner peace and for working to spread peace in the world.


















We implored the class of 2022 to focus on the important numbers in life:
- the number of times they could self reflect and say "I was wrong", and then learn and try to do better
- the number of times a week they actively practised gratitude
- the number of times they actively went out of their way to help others in need even at their own expense
- the number of places they got their information from.

We encouraged the class of 2022 to measure themselves against their own hopes, dreams, aspirations, and their responsibilities to this world - to peace and a sustainable future.

And a message from Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, the Chair of the UWC International Board since 2019, for our graduates of the class of 2022 to 'live up to what you sign up to'... To sign up to go out there and be the best human being that they can be.



> Class of 2022! It has been a real honour - we will miss your smiles, laughter and dedication to pushing the boundaries of the definition of 'closed in shoes'. Be well, stay safe, and come back and visit us often!
>
> - Jonathan Field, Secondary School Principal











[Click here](#) to view photos from our amazing graduation ceremony

University Scholarship Opportunities for UWC Graduates:

THE DAVIS UWC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Our graduates are change-makers with depth of character, grit and initiative. The worldwide reputation enjoyed by UWC Thailand's learning programme means that our students are highly sought after by a wide range of universities around the world. However, many of our students would not have the financial means to continue their educational journeys without the incredible support of the Davis UWC Scholars Program. This scholarship fund provides need-based support for graduates of UWC schools attending one of 99 partner colleges and universities across the U.S.

UWC THAILAND AND THE DAVIS UWC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This is the largest international scholarship program for undergraduates in the world. It provides support for exemplary and promising students who, through their UWC educations, are energized by the mission of building international understanding. Over the last four years, 84 of UWC Thailand's graduates have been granted Davis UWC Scholarships to continue their studies at a diverse range of colleges and universities, including Princeton, Stanford, UPenn, Northwestern, Williams, Wellesley, UC Berkeley, Bowdoin and many more. The application process is simple and does not require the student to do anything more than apply to the school of their choice.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A DAVIS UWC SCHOLARSHIP?

Any UWC graduate admitted on their own merits to one of the 99 partner schools who has demonstrated financial need will automatically qualify for and be granted a Davis UWC Scholarship.

This unique scholarship opportunity is only for graduates of UWC schools. The program believes in the UWC experience, which takes a group of exceptional young people, challenges them academically and personally, expands their horizons exponentially, and shows them how to build understanding from diversity. By supporting these future leaders through their undergraduate educations and motivating them and those around them to take personal responsibility for making a positive difference around the globe, the Davis UWC Scholars Program is proactively contributing to a better future for our highly volatile and interdependent world. In the words of the program's founder and funder, Shelby Davis - "I learned how leaders make a difference, in their countries, in their centuries… I'm looking to invest again in leaders of the future."

> **"I learned how leaders make a difference, in their countries, in their centuries… I'm looking to invest again in leaders of the future."**

HOW DO UNIVERSITIES BENEFIT?

The benefits are enormous for both the Davis UWC Scholars and the colleges and universities they attend, evidenced by the growing number of schools seeking to join the program. Over the course of 22 years, the program has grown from 5 partner schools to 99. The program helps its partner college campuses become more diverse global communities in the belief that all students, faculty, and staff will have more valuable educational experiences by living with and learning from those different from themselves. As one university president put it - "[Our] entire campus benefits from our partnership with the Davis UWC Scholars Program. These young people bring unique global perspectives, exceptional academic preparation, and a deep appreciation for inclusive excellence. Their commitment to engaging broadly enriches the experiences of all of our students, enhancing their understanding of other cultures and the common humanity we all share."

OUR GRADUATES CAN PURSUE THEIR DREAMS!

Here at UWC Thailand, we are tremendously grateful to Shelby Davis and the Davis UWC Scholars Program. Thank you for providing our graduates with the opportunity to pursue their dreams beyond our campus, to make positive and meaningful contributions to the colleges and universities they attend, and to extend and deepen their commitment to making education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

Some faces you might recognise



NOSIZO LUKHELE
Eswatini
Bennington College



DARYA MALIAUSKAYA
Belarus
Trinity College



KATUTA SICHILONGO
Zambia
College of the Atlantic



SARYU ONISHI
Japan
University of Oklahoma



ROBA ANNA WANI JUSTUS LOBWORONG
South Sudan
College of Idaho

Learn more about the Davis UWC Scholars Program here: https://www.davisuwcscholars.org/program













The Great Gatsby Prom 2022

by StuCo

Prom took place on 26 March, and in one night, it inspired friendships, a good time and everlasting memories. The theme of the night was The Great Gatsby with the entire hall being filled with fluffy feathers, fancy themed cups, and complimentary bracelets within each participant's seat. The night was filled with dancing, friends, enjoying wonderful performances, indulging in a wide variety of food, and bonding with new friends that would become family.



The event took five months to plan and the Student Council's subcommittee of the Community Committee organised the event. We spent several months outlining the theme, the layout and all minor details to ensure that all students participating were able to adore the experience. The process was extremely time consuming and required a lot of dedication from committee members, however, it was extremely rewarding to see all students reflect on the night as an exceedingly refreshing experience after many months of hard work.

'Kru Chris dancing made my day.' - Shahrazad

'Prom was a really memorable experience that allowed me to really connect with my second years as well as the amazing cohort.' - Man Nghi

'My favourite part about prom was the vibe and the sense of community that I got by dancing and made me feel as if I was home and felt like I had a second family.' - Alvin











Artist in Residence: Jakkai Siributr

Last month, we had the pleasure of hosting Jakkai Siributr as our artist in residence at UWC Thailand. Jakkai is one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary artists, working primarily in the textile medium. His fascination with textiles and embroidery began as a child in Bangkok. Jakkai is an alumnus of UWC USA '88. He studied textile design for both his undergraduate and graduate studies in the United States before returning to Thailand.

He is noted for producing meticulously handmade tapestry and installation works that make powerful statements about contemporary Thailand's religious, social, and political issues. A central preoccupation of his art is the interaction of Buddhism and materialism in modern life and the everyday popular culture of Thailand.

During Jakkai's visit, he presented six workshops specifically for grades 5, 10, and 11, as well as a workshop for staff and parents on embroidery as part of the "There's No Place" project. Together, the UWC Thailand community members learned a great deal from him and created an impressive collaborative artwork.



We also helped Jakkai raise funds to support his 'There's No Place' project, a collaborative 'call-and-response' embroidery project that seeks to create a dialogue between viewers worldwide and the Shan community of Northern Thailand.

We were honoured to have Jakkai spend so much time with us and we look forward to welcoming him back to UWC Thailand in the future.



REFUGEE FUNDRAISING CONCERT

SUPPORTING AFGHAN FEMALE REFUGEE STUDENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UWCSEA

UWC THAILAND

With a 50 year history, UWC schools and colleges worldwide have impacted thousands of lives in our shared, global mission to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. As one of the only UWC schools in the ASEAN region able to accept students with refugee status and from conflict areas, UWC Thailand has, since its inception as a UWC, committed to supporting students from conflict zones seeking to complete the final two years of their high school education. We then steward these students to post-secondary studies in the United States and worldwide.

With the return of Taliban rule in Afghanistan in August 2021, the UWC for Afghan Youth Initiative was instigated by reaching out to UWC schools and colleges worldwide to support the education of students needing to leave Afghanistan to continue their education. Under Taliban rule, Afghanistan has again become one of the most difficult countries in the world to identify as a woman. Afghan women and children often face insurmountable challenges – from political and economic insecurity to lack of access to education, sexual violence, and poor health conditions.

UWCSEA and UWC Thailand have been working together to bring two young Afghan female scholars to Phuket in August 2022. Bringing two young women to UWC Thailand together will provide them with natural companionship, while the team in Thailand will ensure they have extensive personal and academic support as they begin their UWC journey.

UWCSEA has raised the needed funds for their scholar!
In December 2021, UWCSEA held its first-ever Giving Day as part of its 50th Anniversary Founder's Week celebration. Over 36 hours, 800 donor families contributed nearly $500,000 to support scholarships for young people with promise and potential to create a better world. With the incredible outpouring of support from the UWCSEA community, four deserving students were selected to benefit from Giving Day scholarships for the 2022/2023 academic cohort year. Among these scholars is a young Afghan female refugee who will attend UWC Thailand.



UWC THAILAND STILL NEEDS TO COMPLETE THE FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOLAR…

To be part of this incredible story, join us for one night only at the Moonlit Melodies Fundraising Concert, which aims to raise funds in support of our Afghan female refugee student's scholarship funding.

The Harvard Radcliffe Pitches a cappella group will be headlining our event, which promises to be an unforgettable cultural experience for the whole family!

There are less than 50 tickets still available for Moonlit Melodies, at 2 500 Thai Baht per person, including drinks and canapés.

To purchase your tickets or donate to this worthy cause, email **moonlitmelodies@uwcthailand.ac.th**

All proceeds go directly to supporting our incoming Afghan female refugee student.

INCREDIBLE ITEMS ON AUCTION!
Click here to view all the items on auction and enter your bid!

Come enjoy this unforgettable night in Phuket and support students in need at the same time!

If you wish to discuss sponsorship opportunities here at UWC Thailand, please contact Nicki, our Chief Advancement Officer: nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th







Whole school swim gala's









The annual swim galas are community celebrations where all our students have an opportunity to participate and compete in the pool. They are also leadership opportunities with grade 8 students supporting the primary school swim gala and grade 9 students supporting our youngest students in pre-school and Kindergarten.

This year, many school records were broken in the pool by our high performance swimmers during the secondary swim gala in the various categories: Martina: 25m backstroke (16:29), 50m freestyle (29:50), 50m backstroke (34:25), 50m breaststroke (39:15) & 50m butterfly (32:91). Daryl: 50m freestyle (25:25), 25m butterfly (11:47), 50m butterfly (27:00). Ida Marie: 50m freestyle (27:79), 25m freestyle (12:75). Jashu: 25m backstroke (12:98), 50m backstroke (28:44). Shin Shin: 25 butterfly (14:06).









Since March 2022, UWC Thailand has participated in competitions and games for 35 out of 60 days!

These opportunities have enabled the teams, players, and swimmers to be reinvigorated, develop and build up their fitness, and boost their desire and team spirit. With time, we see an increased level of ability, both individually and as teams. We will continue to work hard, train and compete until the end of the year.











Primary School Games Sports Day & ECC Sports Morning

New this year was the Primary School Games Sports Day, which was an additional day due to the COVID cancelation of Track and Field sports day back in February. A new format with all students participating in team games, displaying their physical, social and thinking skills through games of Floorball, Endbal, Newcombe Ball as well as an Adventure Team challenge and last but not least a 4-team capture the flag game. Our youngest students worked hard during their sports morning, displaying all their motor skills, using their balance, hand eye coordination, and strength and agility in the 10 activities they participated in. They played like true risk-takers and enjoyed being active together with their peers.









UWC Thailand Coaching Crew





UWC Thailand Gymnastics





This month, we had 20 students attend the biannual Gymnastics Competition. The competition has two programmes: the Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) Programme, which is comprised of 4 elements, namely Beam, Uneven Bars, Floor and Vault; and the Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) Programme, which, as per the Olympics, has 6 elements, namely Rings, High Bar, Parallel Bar, Pommel Horse, Floor and Vault.

Our gymnasts have been hard at work preparing for the competitions, and the results speak for themselves.
They gave outstanding performances and achieved many new individual high scores. Students were able to pass new levels and complete their examinations and are now ready to start developing new and exciting skills at their next level.

This year was the first time the MAG Programme was held at UWC Thailand, and we were so proud to have had three of our students compete in all six elements. They all did incredibly well and showed us what talent, skill, and determination look like. We are so proud of everyone that took part!







Learn more about UWC Thailand

UWC THAILAND