ISSUE NO.13 / 2022

THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



Educating for Peace since 1962

Leaders, donors and volunteers came together for the start of UWC's 60th Anniversary celebrations focused on the theme of Educating for Peace: Striving to Change the World since 1962.

Learn more about UWC Thailand

Get to know our staff at UWC THAILAND

Kru Yui

School Director



Sawasdee ka. My name is Dr. Phatcharaphorn Phermkaew and I am the School Director here at UWC Thailand.

I was born in the Phatthalung Province of Thailand, but I have lived in Phuket for over 10 years.

My inspiration is my mom, as she is such a hard worker. She has achieved many successes in her life, which is why she is my superhero.

My hope for UWC Thailand is to see the school grow. I love seeing all the nationalities represented within the school and how students, staff and our broader community come together to share and understand each others' cultures. I love being part of this amazing school and working towards bettering each student under our care.

One thing not many people know about me is that I love to sing. I have enjoyed singing since I was a child and I'll find any opportunity to break into song!



Kru Emma

Middle Years Programme Coordinator

I'm originally from French-speaking Belgium. I have been working and teaching in Asia for 20 years. I enjoy hiking, tennis and especially beach tennis.

I am the Middle Years Programme Coordinator and Transformative Learning Leader, which means that I ensure we introduce new initiatives at school to transform students' learning. Initiatives like Manta Time and integrating Thai studies into the curriculum are two examples of this work. We try to have extensive Interdisciplinary Units that combine subjects together to enrich our programming.

I am inspired by my new colleagues here at UWC Thailand. There is a significant focus on students' well-being, which is important for me in my role at UWC Thailand. The atmosphere here is very relaxed, supportive and collaborative, which I truly enjoy!

Something people don't know about me is that one of my first jobs was working in a chocolate factory in Vietnam.



From left: Jill Longson, UWC Atlantic; Lori Sterling, Pearson College UWC; Susan Mullins, UWC Costa Rica; HM Queen Noor of Jordan, President of UWC; Elizabeth Sellevold, UWC Red Cross Nordic; Nicola Upham, UWC Thailand; and Fleur Meijs, UWC Mostar.



Celebrating 60 years of UWC

October 2022 marks a special milestone for UWC, as we come together to celebrate 60 years of educating for peace. Since its inception in 1962 at the height of the Cold War, UWC has championed education as a route to a more peaceful and sustainable future, inspiring young people from all walks of life to become agents of positive change. Beginning with the founding of one college, UWC Atlantic, UWC has grown into a thriving global community, which now includes 18 schools and colleges across four continents, hundreds of short courses, more than 4,000 volunteers, educators, partners, donors, students, staff, and almost 60,000 alumni.

Our 60th anniversary is a chance for us to celebrate and honour the inspiring change makers who have blazed new paths for education, giving our students the tools and experience needed to become future peacebuilders and to reflect on the individual and collective steps taken, both big and small, which have furthered the cause of peace and sustainability in the world.

As we look to the future, we must renew our focus on the power of education as a force to unite. Our mission inspires us to do everything within our influence to develop a global community of people who work together to make the world a better place for current and future generations. We will continue to do this by deliberately seeking deserving young people from all corners of the world, equipping them with the requisite skills, competencies and mindsets to make a tangible difference in the world, and connecting them to each other as well as other catalytic networks that will propel them forward on their change-making journeys.

Our founder, Kurt Hahn, did not believe in preaching to or coercing young people but instead encouraged positive action by instilling a service mindset with the reminder, "you are needed". In a world still blighted by war and conflict, this call to action is more relevant now than ever.



It was an honour to join other UWC school leaders and governors for the beginning of the 60th anniversary celebrations in Wales only a few short weeks ago. We return home to Thailand with renewed energy and commitment to make our UWC experience a shining light of hope, opportunity and inspiration in the peaceful and beautiful Kingdom of Thailand.

In peace and service to our community,

Lural

Click here to view the video

Values Aligned Day *Mindfulness*

On Wednesday, 28 September, we held our first Values Aligned Day of the year and focused on our guiding commitment to Mindfulness. We celebrate the inaugural event and all the learning that took place. The goal of our four Values Aligned Days includes extending our curriculum with student voice and agency, engaging with community partners and building more in-depth relationships across our school, community, and on the island.









Younger students and their families were dismissed at noon to engage in activities of their choice off-campus. A highlight of the afternoon was a mindful 5km walk/bike around Manik Reservoir, led by staff members Kru Jess Beloded and Kru Emma Wilson. Time was taken to gather together as a group, pause along the way to chalk kind, artful messages for the island community, and appreciate the present moment in nature as a UWC Thailand community. Another off-campus activity, Family Yoga, was led by one of our community partners, Olga Marusova, at the Phuket Elephant Nature Reserve.

Click here to view the full article







View more photographs from our Mindfulness Values Aligned Day

Host Families



Isabel and her Thailand family



Ada (USA) and her host family



Agnesa (Kosovo) with her host family in Khao Sok

This year our Host Family Programme sees over 80 boarding students being matched with families in the community. The Host Family Programme allows students the opportunity to see life beyond campus and helps to broaden the sense of community and care provided to our students. Students are able to reconnect with their home culture through food, a sense of belonging or religion, or they are offered an opportunity to experience a culture they may have never encountered before.

We are deeply grateful to all the host families who have opened their hearts and homes to our boarding community, and we look forward to hearing more about the times spent together as a UWC Thailand family.

PHUKET DISCOVERY TOUR:

Vegetarian Festival



The first Phuket Discovery Tour of this academic year travelled to Phuket Town to explore the Vegetarian Festival. Vegetarian Festival, also known as The Nine Emperor Gods Festival, is a Taoist celebration that sees Thailand turn vegetarian for nine days. Students and parents, led by the members of the Manta Parent Teacher Association (PTA), had a chance to visit the Jui Tui temple, explore food stalls and try locally prepared vegetarian delicacies.







SCHOLARSHIPS



Dare to Dream

The Davis-UWC Dare to Dream Program was launched in early 2018 through a pledge by Shelby Davis of over USD 100 million towards the global UWC movement's scholarship fund. For three years, from 2018 to 2020, the donation has provided funding for 100 additional scholarships per year for students selected through UWC national committees to attend one of the 18 UWC schools worldwide for their final two years of secondary education. Since Dare to Dream's launch in 2018, 297 students have received scholarship funding.

In 2021 Dare to Dream 2 was launched in hopes of continuing the forward momentum of the UWC Movement. Shelby Davis doubled his annual Davis-UWC Dare to Dream Program pledge from USD 5 million to USD 10 million, leading to the creation of up to 300 new scholarships per year through this program only. Dare to Dream 2 increases the number of needs-based scholarships by creating a matching campaign to activate further funding. Dare to Dream 2 was established with the goal of developing a global "one-team approach".

UWC THAILAND FUTURE WOMEN LEADERS



REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIPS / HORIZON



Learn more about our scholarships

Horizon Foundation

In 2016 the Horizon Foundation decided to expand their partnerships and, together with UWC International, started a Horizon-UWC Scholars Programme targeting refugee students and young people from conflict zones and other students from underprivileged or marginalised backgrounds.

Horizon scholars are exceptional young people from the Middle East and Asia (particularly Palestine, Syria, Afghanistan and Tibet). They are academically able and community-driven, with a desire to become change agents. Scholars are typically 16 to 19 years old when they begin their penultimate year of secondary schooling at one of the many UWC schools and colleges around the world.

horizon foundation

If you wish to discuss sponsorship opportunities here at UWC Thailand, please contact Nicki, our Chief Advancement Officer: nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th or go to the support us page on our website.



SPORT ROUND-UP

CROSS COUNTRY



This month, our under-12s participated in the Cross Country competition at the British International School of Phuket. Our Mantas were outstanding, and took home multiple medals. Congratulations to all our athletes, and thank you to everyone who came to support them!

VOLLEYBALL

Our teams have been hard at work with their rigorous training programme. Playing friendly matches has helped them prepare for the upcoming FOBISIA Invitational in Bangkok. We wish them the best of luck!









Other competitors representing their countries





SWIM MEET

Our High Performing Athletes, Een (grade 10) and Jehanara (grade 12), broke not one but multiple national records at the Thailand Age Group Short Course Nationals.

AT THE pool



TRAIL RUN

Congratulations to three of our competitive runners who participated in the Thanyapura 5km Trail Run this month. Siena (grade 8) took 1st place overall for women, with Joaquín (grade 11) and Fortress (grade 12) finishing 8th and 9th, respectively, in the men's competition. We are so proud of you for your commitment and dedication!

BOARDING STORIES!

NEW FULL-TIME HOUSE PARENTS: GEMMA AND MARBAL MARTÍNEZ



We are excited to welcome Gemma (Marbal will arrive shortly) to the boarding staff team as full-time, live-in house parents. Gemma and Marbal both have 8+ years of experience in residential life, and 20+ years of living in Thailand and bring a wealth of knowledge to the team. Gemma and Marbal are accompanied by their two children, Mega and Mateo, who will also be a part of the boarding community.

NEW BOARDING PET, Scout



Boarding students welcomed a new pet cat, Scout, to the boarding house. Scout is a rescue and though still a little apprehensive of people, he's been showered with affection and care from students and staff in the boarding house.

October Break!







Over the October break, staff and students organised various activities to engage boarding students and visiting day students. Activities included Game Nights, a FIFA tournament, and multiple Thai cooking classes at the Boarding House led by our Boarding House Office Senior Assistant and off campus trips to the Hill Cafe and the Phuket Old Town Night Market.



Celebrating DASHAIN



In early October, students celebrated the end of Dashain, a Nepali festival honoring the Goddess Durga. Nepali students invited their peers and staff to participate in placing tika (a dab of red vermilion mixed with yogurt and rice) on their foreheads for good fortune.

Sailing at UWC Thailand

Sailing at UWC Thailand has steadily grown to become one of the school's main sporting activities, and this year signals some incredible growth for both sailing and our Outdoor Education Programme.

Last March saw the launch of the UWC Thailand Outdoor Education Centre, located 20 minutes north of the school. The Outdoor Education Centre is situated at The PlayYard, in a beautiful bay overlooking Phang Nga. The location is ideal for a number of watersport activities. It is sheltered from waves and harsh weather brought by the monsoon season whilst providing consistent wind conditions to offer incredible sailing opportunities for both new and experienced sailors alike.

The Outdoor Education Centre quickly gained accreditation by the International Sailing Schools Association (ISSA), which was accomplished in partnership and with support from the Phuket Yacht Club, with whom we have a long-standing relationship.

Click here to read the full article











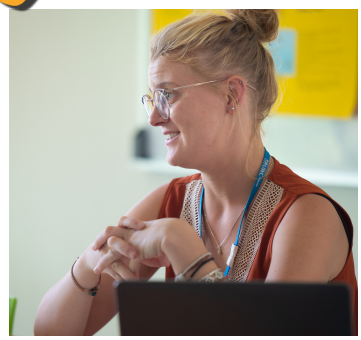


View more Sailing Programme photographs

3-WAY AND STUDENT-PARENT-TEACHER *Conferences*











During our 3-Way and Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences earlier this month, students led conversations as they reflected on and celebrated their learning. These conferences are a valuable time for parents to see their child's learning and thinking first-hand while helping them set positive goals for the rest of the academic year.









GYMNASTICS

During their gymnastics classes, grade 1 to 7 students came together to develop their ballet skills and learn how to connect their fundamental skills with turns, leaps, and ballet steps. In doing so, they understand the choreography of floor routines and get to know each other better as a team through collaborative work.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to world-renowned Gemma N. Frizelle (pictured at left) for joining us as a guest coach.

THAILAND INTERNATIONAL
BOAT SHOW
A LUXURY LIFESTYLE EVENT
a JAND event



JOIN US AT THE THAILAND INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW FROM 12 - 15 JANUARY 2023









UWC THAILAND