

ISSUE NO.20 / 2023

# THE MANTA

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

*Pulse*

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



“

**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, UWC founder



Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media

# MANTAS ON THE MOVE

## UWC THAILAND CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION

The graduation of the UWC Thailand Class of 2023 was a celebration of the many successes of this remarkable class, as well as a recognition of their resilience, kindness, and unity throughout two challenging years.

The overarching theme throughout the ceremony was the profound hope that the Class of 2023 will continue to exemplify the UWC Mission and Values as they venture into their future endeavours. They were encouraged to actively engage with the world's challenges, take ownership of their inner peace, and embrace their unique identities while working towards fostering peace on a global scale.

[Click here for more photos](#) 📸



69 STUDENTS | 56 SCHOLARS | 47 NATIONALITIES





Jalal Tarazi, Science Teacher and Teacher Representative of the UWC Thailand Class of '23, concluded his speech with a quote from the popular movie 'Along Came Polly':

**"Life is not about the past or what you think might happen in the future. It's about the ride. And you know what... when you least expect it, something great might come along, something better than what you even planned for." I wish you a continued journey of success and also several unexpected, and of course fortuitous detours."**



**LIVE**  
Click here  
to watch the  
live stream  
from the day!

“

**"Thank you, Class of 2023, for bringing immense joy to our school and leaving an indelible mark on our community. We will miss you and your iconic crocs, and we look forward to celebrating your future successes and happiness."**

**Jonathan Field,**  
Secondary School Principal



# Community Dinner

The Community Dinner was an evening filled with warmth and pride. It provided a unique opportunity for our graduating students to introduce their families to their peers, staff, and other visitors, fostering a deep sense of connection within our community. The atmosphere was casual yet filled with a great sense of pride as everyone gathered around, engaging in conversations and making new acquaintances.

[Click here for more photos](#) 



# Delta Dinner

Before venturing onto their individual life paths, the Delta Dinner presented our graduating class with a heartfelt occasion to unite and pay tribute to the incredible staff members who have supported them throughout their entire UWC Thailand journey. As our graduates expressed their deep gratitude, tears of joy flowed, making the evening even more memorable.

The event was a remarkable celebration of appreciation and recognition, forging enduring memories for both students and staff. To conclude the night, our students took the opportunity to write heartfelt messages to their teachers.



# GRADE 12 CAMP

Starting their Transition Week, our grade 12 Class of 2023 had their first camp experience at UWC Thailand's Outdoor Education Centre. The focus of their time was bonding as a cohort, challenging themselves through outdoor activity, and reflecting on their time together. Throughout the camp, they participated in various activities such as hiking, sailing, mountain biking, and practising mindfulness. Furthermore, they enjoyed singing, playing board games, and simply spending time together.

**"The grade 12 camp was an unforgettable experience that brought us closer together. It was a great way to mix fun with farewells as the several activities created a sentimental space to share our last thoughts and moments together as a class before graduation, I am forever grateful I had such an amazing, diverse and funny cohort!"**

Leon Matos Silva (UWC Thailand, '23)



**"It was wonderful to see students stepping outside their comfort zones and being able to connect with all of their classmates, without study or exam stress. They ended their UWC Thailand experience on a high note!"**

Aleka Bilan, UWC Thailand Director of Wellbeing



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

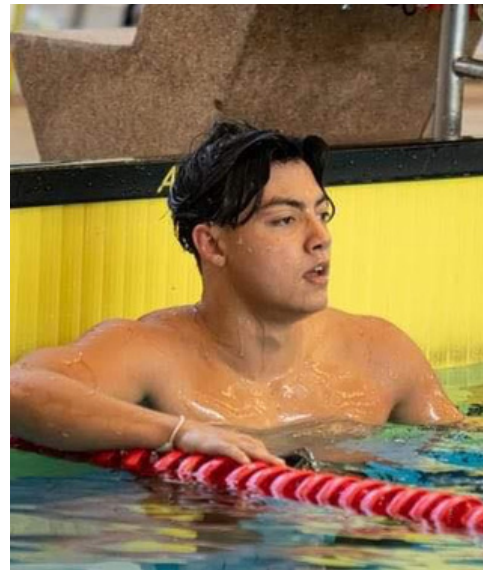
## Sovann Montross

Professional swimmer and UWC Thailand '22 alumnus

The recently concluded 32nd Southeast Asian Games in Cambodia have left us brimming with pride. One of our own, Sovann Montross (UWC Thailand, '22), a talented Manta swimmer, had the incredible honour of representing Cambodian athletes and delivering the athlete's oath during the magnificent opening ceremony. Congratulations, Sovann, on this great honour!



Photo courtesy of Cambodia 2023



### UWC PLEDGE

The UWC Pledge is a powerful commitment made by students and alumni of the UWC movement. It embodies values of sustainability, cross-cultural understanding, and peace, inspiring individuals to make a positive impact on our global community. The pledge can be fulfilled through various ways, by giving their time, treasure or talent. Read more about UWC Pledge [here](#).



UWC Thailand Class of 2023 Pledge

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



# Values Aligned Day

## Sports and Activities

Our final Values-Aligned Day of the year provided students with the chance to immerse themselves in activities that closely align with our commitment to personal growth and development. Students had the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills and actively participate in various on-campus activities.

The wide range of opportunities offered enabled students to explore their interests, uncover new passions, and cultivate essential skills. Through the promotion of physical well-being, teamwork, and resilience via sports and activities, students developed into well-rounded individuals.

**Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of this day!**

“

**"Sometimes, despite our initial reluctance, taking a pause from the routine and immersing ourselves in playful group activities can work wonders. It not only helps us unwind and reduce stress, but it also recharges our batteries, leaving us refreshed and revitalised."**

Kim Young,  
UWC Thailand Director of Mindfulness

“

**"It was a fantastic Values Aligned Day as we had the opportunity to spend time together playing, challenging ourselves physically, and having a great time."**

Akira, Grade 9 (Australia)



[Click here for more photos](#) 



# UNITED WORLD CRUST

The UWC Thailand pizza oven project began in 2018 as a Saturday morning activity in the boarding house, aiming to bring our community closer together. Students actively participated in various construction tasks, including digging, using power tools, and laying bricks. Despite encountering some challenges, we successfully completed the project, and the valuable results and learning experiences made it all worthwhile.

This year, the pizza oven received a stunning mosaic facelift, designed by our talented students. It is now ready to serve delicious pizzas to our school and community for the next five years and beyond!

The Manta Parent-Teacher Association has played a crucial role in supporting the project by providing financial assistance and helping students with dough preparation. If you would like to get involved with the United World Crust, please reach out to the [Manta Parent-Teacher Association](#).



## Pride Parade

UWC Thailand's vibrant Pride Parade united students of all ages, symbolising inclusivity and respect. Rainbow outfits and creative signs showcased the beauty of every individual, promoting universal acceptance.

#LOVEWINS!





## KINDERGARTEN MINI-X

Our Kindergarten students embarked on a captivating exploration of the journey food takes from farm to table, understanding its crucial role in creating their favourite recipes. They delved into this journey by visiting a local farm, scouring our campus for fresh produce, and even joining forces to create delectable smoothies. All of their learning culminated in Mini-X, an event where our students presented an impressive showcase of mouthwatering dishes and captivating videos, highlighting their carefully planned ingredient-sourcing and preparation processes.

[Click here to view student cooking videos](#) 



## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

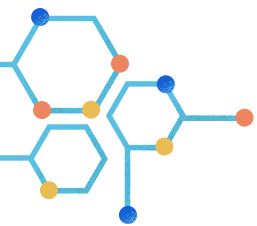
### How the World Works

Our young explorers have embarked on a new Unit of Inquiry, with a focus on exploring their surroundings and gaining a deeper understanding of how our world works. To facilitate this exciting learning journey, they have transformed the magical outdoor spaces surrounding our Outdoor Education Centre into their very own classroom.

# UWC THAILAND LIVING MUSEUM

## Grade 2 and 3 Mini-Exhibition

During the Mini-X, each student assumed the identity of an influential figure, encompassing diverse personas such as Laura Dekker, Wang Zhenyi, Cameron Bodey, Jane Goodall, and Nelson Mandela. They invested effort in crafting scripts, props, and outfits to authentically portray their chosen character and were eager to present their learnings to a diverse audience.



# Science Fair



The culmination of weeks of diligent study and experimentation arrived as our grade 8 students eagerly presented their scientific theories and experiments to their peers and the entire UWC Thailand Community. Their exploration covered various subjects, delving into topics such as ocean acidification, light refraction, and the complexities of animal wing aerodynamics. As they confidently shared their findings, their audience, particularly the younger students, were left in awe of their knowledge and discoveries.



# SPORTS ROUND-UP

## ASAC Junior Volleyball Championship

Despite being a relatively new team, actively training for just 7 weeks, our Mantas displayed remarkable growth and progress in their game. Their unwavering determination and tireless efforts were evident as they competed with passion, demonstrating outstanding camaraderie and sportsmanship throughout the championship.

**Congratulations on an outstanding performance, Mantas!**



## Football Victory

UWC Thailand U17 Boys played a friendly match with a mixed-age British International School Phuket team that finished 2-1, with some good teamwork by Robuti, grade 11 (Kiribati) and Sasha, grade 11 (Belgium).

## Manta Swimmers

Our incredible UWC Thailand Manta swimmers have been dominating the pool in action-packed Swim Meets! Our talented young swimmers have showcased their skills at multiple competitions, leaving their mark with a haul of medals and breaking personal records along the way



# MESSAGE BOARD

"Congratulations, Grade 12! We are very, very proud of you and so excited to hear about your next adventure."

~ Laurie Stone, UWC Thailand  
Comprehensive Counsellor

"Congratulations, Class of 2023, and all the best for the future!"

~ Kerstin Bender, UWC Thailand  
Director of Sport, Activities and  
Camps, Ismaël Fofana, UWC Thailand  
Boarding House Parent

"Congratulations, guys!  
It was a real pleasure  
teaching you. I really loved  
our debates in class."

~ Chris MacLean, UWC Thailand  
Subject Area Learning Leader -  
Individuals and Societies

"Grade 12s, I hope you can  
stay present with possibilities,  
hope, and the endless, endless  
unknowns, but the amazing  
unknowns that are there for  
you right now in this moment.  
Good luck."

~ Amanda Molnar, UWC Thailand  
Business and Global Politics Teacher



"Goodbye, Grade 12, and  
thanks for everything.  
It was great getting to know  
all of you. I particularly  
enjoyed the U19 volleyball,  
and I'm going to miss you all  
so much."

~ Laura Worasaktayanan, UWC  
Thailand Subject Area Learning  
Leader - Secondary Learning  
Support

"You've worked so hard, and  
we are so, so proud of you.  
I think looking at you now  
as a group of people who  
started off from such complex  
journeys, and the way you've  
come through, is just  
magnificent. Well done."

~ Katie Feather, UWC Thailand  
Diploma Programme Coordinator

"Good luck, Grade 12! We  
are really proud of you and  
everything you have achieved  
in these past two years,  
overcoming many difficulties  
and coming out strong."

~ Cameron Firth, UWC Thailand  
Subject Area Learning Leader  
- Language and Literature

"Congratulations, Grade 12!  
It's been an amazing journey  
you've been on, and it's been  
a pleasure to be here to see  
the transformation you've  
made over the last couple  
of years, despite all the  
challenges."

~ Kim Young, UWC Thailand  
Director of Mindfulness