



Newsletter

The United World College in Mostar
October 2009 • School year 2009/2010



**Marking the 350 Initiative
UWCiM Hosted "Volunteer -
Credit" Project in Mostar
Celebrating Volunteerism
"Engaging Communities"
English Language and Mathematics
Workshops for BiH Teachers**

UWCiM Hosted "Volunteer-Credit" Project in Mostar

UWCiM students took part in the state wide high-school project "Volunteer-Credit" for the first time. The project was organized by the Infohouse association from Sarajevo and it gathered more than 2,000 students from 100 high-schools all over BiH. The project is consisted of two sections: "Social Day" and "Fair of Ideas".

Early Start of Volunteer-Credit Project's Social Day on the Spanish Square



The first part was held on 9 October 2009, and it is worth noting that UWCiM was the host of the event for the City of Mostar. The big gathering of students involved in "Social Day" in Mostar was organized on the Spanish Square, where all the participants were addressed by Mostar's mayor, Mr. Ljubo Bešlić. From there they all went to various firms and institutions where they spent a working day earning at least KM 15, later to be donated to the project's joint fund. The 22 students of UWCiM spent their day in various organizations including the OSCE Mission to BiH, Cantonal Ministry of Justice, Museum of Herzegovina, Fortuna Tourist Agency, "Pavarotti" Music Centre, "Los Rosales" Centre and Primary School for Children with Special Needs. The next stage of the project will be organizing the "Fair of Ideas" in Sarajevo in November where all the schools will present the projects that they would like to implement in the future period. Top three projects will be

funded from the joint fund. The purpose of the project "Volunteer-Credit" is to demonstrate that the young people in BiH are ready to work together for common good and mutual benefit. UWCiM is planning to apply with the project of multicultural understanding, still to be fully developed by the "Fair of Ideas" scheduled for November.

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Registration of Participants within Social Day

CAS as a Tool of Change in Young People's Perception Building Path for Volunteering Engagement

Our College was among the guests of the 18 European Workshop on Voluntary Action "Engaging Communities" in Sarajevo. Our presentation, held on Saturday, 10 October, was focused on our CAS - Community Service (Creativity, Action, Service) programme, i.e. we were there to show how UWCiM cooperates with the population of Mostar through various student-led projects and initiatives.



Maria Cid Choucino

The students invited to present their CAS experience were me and my colleague Srdjan Beronja from Banja Luka. We arrived around lunchtime to the hotel Sarajevo, minutes before the time set for our presentation. It was nice to see that our presentation attracted lots of visitors who were very interested to hear about the role that our College was playing in Mostar during the past three years. After a brief introduction given by the official UWCiM representative at the conference, our History teacher and CAS co-coordinator Dženan Hakalović, I and Srđan got an opportunity to share our CAS experience. Srđjan explained his involvement in the CAS Service programme "Fun with the Elderly" and the personal benefits he gained from that experience in terms of better understanding of the society and its complexity. He also mentioned organizing our annual MUN Conference that serves as a forum of young people in the region, contributing to their global issues awareness and allowing them to develop their debating and diplomacy skills. I talked about my experience in our Ecology service, about organizing actions such as paper collections for recycling and about raising awareness on ecological issues among Mostar high-school students. Our presentation provoked a lot of questions from the audience and we were very happy that our CAS programme was seen as an appropriate tool for spreading the spirit of volunteerism among youth. Within the conference, we met an ex-UWC student from Poland and we had a really interesting conversation about volunteering with Mr. Daniel Fashe, the Director of Educational Alliance about Africa in the UK. He said something really interesting: "Two people apply for the same job. One of them has been working during the last year and the other one has been volunteering. If I would be the one deciding who gets the job, I would definitely choose the one that has been volunteering because that shows that he is hard working, consistent and interested in what he is doing". It feels really good to know that volunteering is getting so vastly appreciated nowadays.

Maria Cid Choucino, UWCiM student, Spain

18th European Workshop on Voluntary Action, Sarajevo 2009 Celebrating Volunteerism

"Engaging Communities" was the main theme of this year's Workshop on Voluntary Action, organized in Sarajevo from 8 to 11 October by Volonteurope, a leading European Voluntary service. This was the 18th annual workshop and conference, first to be organized outside of the European Union. Thanks to the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), who was Volonteurope's partner in the project, the Conference hosted some very prominent guests, NGO activists, educators, politicians, EU officials and diplomats. The opening ceremony of the Conference was organized at the British Ambassador's Residence in Sarajevo. What followed in the next few days were series of interesting and particularly educative workshops and presentations by different activists, volunteers and educators from Germany, the Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina and many other countries, who shared their experience with the participants. Approximately 300 participants had an opportunity to hear about some of the crucial challenges of

the voluntary networks in the EU and BiH, methods used to overcome problems, fund raising strategies, etc. The workshops were enriched by volunteers presenting their first hand experiences, and were interactive and open to discussions that followed. The United World College in Mostar (UWCiM) was invited to take part in the Conference and present its community service programme, CAS - Creativity, Action, Service, with a special focus on its Service component. The title of our presentation was "The Effects of a Structured Voluntary Service Programme on the Local Community and the Participants". Besides emphasizing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) as one of the useful tools for encouraging youngsters to become volunteers, the presentation also underlined the importance of voluntary engagement inside the UWC movement. The main part of our presentations was concentrated on the role that the UWCiM plays in post-conflict reconciliation in Mostar by establishing cooperation with local NGOs and institutions such as the Centre for People with Special Needs "Los Rosales", the Association of

Mostar Roma "Neretva", Caritas' Centre for Children with Special Needs "Holy Family", etc. This was presented by our students Srđjan Beronja and Maria Cid Chuchino who shared their experiences from their service groups, and informed the present about the independent students' initiatives such as organizing the Model United Nations (MUN) Conference, Roma Awareness Week, etc. The large interest of other participants for UWCiM's activities will most definitely lead to some new collaborative projects within BiH and beyond. On a local level, the Conference encouraged closer collaboration of BH NGOs, Youth Councils, voluntary services and similar organizations who work on a more intensive engagement of civil society in decision making processes. Overall impression is that the Conference was very successful and encouraging. It helped integrate BiH into the European voluntary network and invited all the local organizations to participate in the next Volonteurope Conference 2010 in Athens, as well as to prepare for the upcoming year of 2011 which will be celebrated as the European Year of Volunteerism.

Dženan Hakalović, UWCiM History teacher, BiH



UWCiM Team at "Engaging Communities" Conference: Srđjan Beronja, Maria Cid Choucino and Dženan Hakalović

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Ingrid Fiedler during Registration

A Day with the OSCE

We spent a day working at the Mostar Office of OSCE Mission to BiH. I was very excited about spending the working day in OSCE since that is one of the international organisations involved in monitoring the rule of law, human rights, national security, democratization and education in post war BiH.

Between the Gymnasium and College building and our Canteen there is a building surrounded by gates and cameras. On October 9, I and my UWCiM colleague Irene Zoler together with three students from other Mostar high schools got a chance to get the glimpse of what goes on behind those gates within the "Volunteer-Credit" project! Our day in OSCE started with morning briefing where we were invited to join one of the departments for the day. I was selected to join the work with the Human Rights department for the day. First a Rule of Law Monitor took me with her to a court hearing in the Mostar Municipal Court. The OSCE was there to observe the legal procedures and the fairness of the process. After the trial we returned to the OSCE office where part of the department was working on report on football fans violence in Široki Brijeg which provoked a lot of ethnic tension in BiH. Two department officers monitored public responses. The discussion as the

report came together involved fact checking and even an analysis of the rhetorical devices being used in the media reports about the event. This was extremely interesting for me since I also realized that the concepts taught in IB A1 language classes are actually used to create official reports on human rights issues! After the spot report was sent out to OSCE Head Office in Sarajevo, radio show meant to publicize the new antidiscrimination law was aired. The show was made to inform general public about the new legal measures that can be used in fighting various forms of discrimination and to promote social equality. My day at the OSCE Mission to BiH was a fascinating and great experience! Not only that I earned some money for the "Volunteer-Credit" Project fund, I also learned what the OSCE does and how BiH is actually set up. From this day I feel that through deeper involvement in the Mostar community our College can make a difference.

*Ingrid Fiedler,
UWCiM student, USA*

Teacher Training Programme in BiH Contemporary Trends in Teaching English language and Mathematics



English Language Workshop in UWCiM's Spanish Room

English Language and Mathematics teachers from high-schools from across the country gathered in UWCiM on 23 and 24 October to attend parallel seminars on contemporary educational trends in teaching, organized by UWC-IB Initiative's Centre for Professional Development of Teachers in BiH. The two day workshop on how to use new technologies in class was the main focus of interactive and dynamic group work moderated by the experienced IB teachers from Slovenian IB gymnasias in Ljubljana and Maribor, Barbara Gostiša Pretnar, Miro Mrčela and Barbara Pečanac, supported by UWCiM's IB teachers Jordanka Marčeta in Mathematics and Ivana Knježević in English.

The workshop for English teachers was attended by 27 English teachers from Tešanj, Mostar, Kakanj, Goražde, Jajce, Novi Grad, Novi Travnik, Bijeljina, Orašje, Rudo, Busovača, Cazin, Gradačac, Ribnik, Lukavac, Banja Luka, Donji Vakuf, Gornji Vakuf, Sarajevo, Maglaj and Vlasenica, while at the workshop for Mathematics teachers 25 participants came from 16 different towns of the country: Velika Kladuša, Mostar, Novi Travnik, Bosanska Krupa, Kalesija, Sarajevo, Gornji Vakuf, Cazin, Orašje, Banja Luka, Maglaj, Bijeljina, Visoko, Zenica, Lukavac and Bosanska Krupa.

These workshops were a successful continuation of the efforts of the UWC-IB Initiative in promoting the IB teaching methods as a possible path for secondary school education reform in BiH.

UWC-IB Initiative's Executive Committee Member Visited Tuzla Canton

On 5 October the UWC-IB Executive Committee member, Mr. David Sutcliffe, visited Tuzla Canton in order to present the Initiative's mission and goals, and to explore the possibilities of expanding the International Baccalaureate Programme network to this part of the country. During the visit Mr. Sutcliffe held meetings with the Prime Minister of Tuzla Canton, Mr. Enes Mujić, representatives of the Ministry of Education of Tuzla Canton and the Minister, Ms. Mirzeta Hadžić-Suljkić, the Director of the Pedagogical Institute Tuzla, Mr. Hazim Hodžić, the Mayor of Tuzla, Mr. Jasmin Imamović, the Director of the Gymnasium Meša Selimović in Tuzla, Mr. Mirsad Hadžihalilović, and the Director of Gymnasium



David Sutcliffe (second on the left) Meeting with Representatives of Tuzla Canton Education Ministry

Dr. Mustafa Kamarić in Gračanica, Mr. Adem Čamdžić. The response from the educational authorities of Tuzla Canton

was very positive. The representatives of the Ministry of Education showed great interest in the possibility of including one or two

gymnasias from the Tuzla area in the IB network, and promised their support in the implementation of this project.

Think Globally - Act Locally 350 Initiative in UWCiM



UWCiM's Support to 350 Initiative

What is 350 Initiative and what does the number 350 mean anyway? It represents the safe limit of CO2 we can have in our atmosphere, in parts per million (ppm). At the moment we have past this limit, and CO2 is now at 387 ppm level, which puts us in grave danger ecologically.

Looking around the room, I can count at least 25 people who have UWCiM's 350 photo as their screensaver! It makes me so proud to be part of the 350 Initiative: proud of the fact that we made such a difference, and proud that we affected so many people to give their contribution to the 350 Initiative! What is 350 Initiative and what does the number 350 mean anyway? It represents the safe limit of CO2 we can have in our atmosphere, in parts per million (ppm). At the moment we have past this limit, and CO2 is now at 387 ppm level, which puts us in grave danger ecologically. The planet has past the safe limit, and we need to help lower it back to the safe 350 zone by limiting our CO2 emissions. This means raising awareness of this limit and this is exactly what United World Colleges (UWCs) have been doing for this past month. The UWCiM was contacted by several students of other UWCs who had come up with the idea of raising awareness of the 350 Initiative by helping represent it at United Nation's Climate Change Conference in Copenha-

gen in December. The proposals swirling around before the conference were too weak to help us achieve our safe zone in time. So someone decided to take worldwide action and here we are, making a difference! Within the initiative we were asked to provide a school picture of the number 350 spelt out, as well as dividing up into our mother tongue language groups, so as to take a picture spelling out "we want to survive!" in our respective languages. This is what we did for most of the month! We encouraged each other into taking initiative, and we sent mass mails reminding people to get organised. In the case of the 350 UWCiM's school photo, which was taken on the Spanish Square right outside the Gymnasium Mostar and UWCiM building on Thursday 15th October, we ran around asking local Gymnasium students and Mostar citizens to join us and to participate so as to make the biggest impact possible. The effort was totally worth it (hope you agree:). Well, see for yourself and may our actions help save the world!

*Anita Vieu Robson,
UWCiM student, UK*

UWCiM Environmental Project: "I'm Green"

The goal of the "Environmental Project" is to increase our school's long-term sustainability and to conserve both natural and economic resources by reducing excess energy and resource usage.

Hilary Johnson and Andy Hemphill



We are currently putting into action a student-lead initiative at UWCiM, aimed at reducing the environmental impact of the school. Though

green projects are becoming quite commonplace around the world, this is something very radical for the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is still recovering from the wounds of war. Therefore, attention to and legislation

concerning the environment have been almost non-existent in BiH. Beginning with fundamental projects such as changing old light bulbs, composting, and reducing waste greatly diminishes the impact of our College's carbon footprint. Many people are unaware of the huge impact that these seemingly menial tasks can have. Our hope is to raise community environmental awareness locally and in the whole state of BiH in cooperation with our Ecology group. Previously, this took place in the form of paper collections for recycling and local garbage pick-ups. We received tremendous appreciation for our work as well as many volunteers who jumped right in to help us. Now we hope to expand these projects and start new ones to continually embrace our responsibility for the stewardship of our planet.

Within our "Environmental Project" we have both short- and long-term initiatives. We are implementing many of our measures immediately; however, more drastic steps must be taken to accomplish our goal of reaching self sustainability. As you

know, the best way to become completely sustainable is to fully utilize local resources, readily available in your area. In our case, we are blessed, and sometimes burdened, by exorbitantly strong wind called the bura in this mountainous region of Herzegovina. It is our hope to employ this resource to our advantage by generating renewable wind power to support the energy needs of our school. It sounds very ambitious and impossible at the moment but projects like this, which are daring yet attainable, can really truly combat against environmental degradation and act as a role model for the beautiful vicinity in which our school is located. Let's hope we will succeed in some reasonable time! In the spirit of the UWC movement, we hope that our project will inspire other UWCs to initiate or continue their own environmental projects, and that an exchange of ideas will develop between the colleges, so that together, we can significantly reduce the harmful impact on our home.

Andy Hamphill, UWCiM student, USA

Winning the Creative Writing Competition

"Between Fear and Hope"

Since I came to UWCiM, I have not participated in any creative writing competitions, but creative writing remained my passion and I never gave up on it. When our Bosnian teacher Larisa Maksumić brought us the call for students' creative writings entitled "Between Fear and Hope", I recognized a great opportunity in this. I was really fond of the topic so I decided to write something. For me this was a great opportunity to express myself about the current situation in my country, and I was happy to contribute in creating of something new. The competition included all young and creative authors from BiH. The topic was quite common and gave a lot of possibilities for literary expression, and as I've already said, I immediately felt drawn to it. I knew exactly what it was that I should write about, and did it in a very

short time. I was aware of the quality of my work and I had some expectations while writing, but I stopped thinking about the competition as soon as I sent my essay. About fifteen days later I received the call from the foundation "Fond Bošnjaci" and that was when I knew I had won the competition. Those were amazing news. I was proud to be chosen among all the candidates. During the awarding ceremony in Sarajevo I gave a speech about the significance of the competition for me. I was happy to say that on occasions like that, the society of this country wants to hear the voice of young people, and that it wants us to think about things and develop our own opinions. In the end, I highlighted the importance of a written word that stays for the future generations. I was also glad that we were encouraged to create literature that will

and able to see things from the distance, and to consider them in objective way. When I heard the best works are going to be collected in a book, I was the happiest person in the world, because the fact that someone, somewhere, one day, will read my essay and think about it showed me I did something useful.

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Edina Pajt, UWCiM student, BiH



(on the left) Edina Pajt with Co-Winners during Awarding Ceremony in Sarajevo

Enriching UWCiM Impact Europe on our Doorstep



Bakir Krpo, Headmaster of Gymnasium Mostar

Spanish Square numero uno: Mostar's old lady Gymnasium – the shrine of knowledge, the home of the people or Europe on your doorstep. Rebuilt by European funds for European appearance; with its new make-up, accessories and ancient soul this old lady catches every eye. It is 116 years old and uses its pride to defy time and prove that the power of the mind is much stronger than the power of infatuated individuals and insane creatures in human skins. It managed to fight against many misfortunes and wars; the evils of the world in the form of Fascism and Nationalism during the WW1 and WW2, as well as the one that was probably the worst but still awaits its official definition – the 1992 – 1995 war in BiH. As early as the WW2, its 65 students and teachers gave their lives and thoughts of freedom to fight against Nazism while, at the same time, declaring anti-fascist ideas in the attempt to create equality and tolerance. An important integration process occurred in the then deeply divided city in June 2004 when the City Council made the decision to unite the First Gymnasium, which used to operate under Federal curriculum, and Gymnasium "Fra Dominik Mandić", working under Croatian curriculum, and give birth to the Gymnasium Mostar. This historic act was meant to show that the education system is not supposed to adopt the ideas of discrimination

and segregation, and that it is possible to have students of different backgrounds living and studying together in a single school. It was a clear message for politicians that co-existence of three ethnic groups is possible and that united schools may lead to a united city. We are happy to show that our doors are open to all Mostar children regardless of their national identity, but we have taken another step forward: since the establishment of UWCiM in our school building, we welcome children from the whole world. Namely, in March 2005 the City Council, supported by the Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, unanimously approved the opening of UWCiM. That is how our school justified the title "home for the people" because then it got its international aspect which is a dimension a notch higher than before. The College brought us the positive winds of the West and opened a brand new educational page that will further support the educational reform. We are particularly happy that, despite the crises and the problems, the College managed to find a way to survive and stay in Mostar. Our cooperation is growing stronger and stronger year after year with increasing number of joint projects that serve as an example to our community as to how an educational process can be organized in a post-conflict area.

Bakir Krpo, Headmaster of Gymnasium Mostar

Residential Life at UWCiM Friends for Life

Meeting my roommates in UWCiM was one of the best and most exciting experiences in my life so far! That is why I want to share the Musala room No. 4 experience with everybody.



(from left to right) Anelka, Isidora, Anela and Stela

There are four of us living there: Isidora, Anela, Anelka and I. If you ask somebody from Musala residence about us, they will probably say we are the funniest and, from time to time, the loudest room in the residence- due to loud laughter mostly. I remember the first day I came to Mostar from my hometown of Travnik in central Bosnia. It was a beautiful sunny day with great people around me, but I was still worried and very anxious. Who are my roommates? Are we going to get along? Are they going to be nice to me? I had millions of questions in my head. But soon enough I got my answers. The first I met at the Musala residence was Anela from Žepče. The thing that caught my attention was her crazy haircut and beautiful smile. Then I met Isidora from Trebinje who was so kind, friendly and cheerful. Last, but not least, came Anelka from Brčko. She was smiling all the time without being shy at all. At that moment I realised that all my questions and doubts were really unnecessary! I realised that all my roommates were really special and I suddenly felt happy that I was going to spend my first UWCiM year living with these great girls! After one month, I can say that I already think of them as my best friends because we share everything i.e. iron, hairdryer, clothes, secrets and we spend every free moment together. For some people our strong bond may seem unusual because of our different ethnic and religious backgrounds. But I explain it like this: when I look at Anela, I don't see a Muslim, I see a

girl who speaks German perfectly, likes to sleep a lot and a girl who can make an awesome haircut. In Isidora I don't see an Orthodox, I see a girl very, very proud of her city, a girl who is afraid of everything and extremely intelligent. In Anelka I also don't see an Orthodox, but a self-confident, sometimes stubborn punk girl with her own unique style. So far we've been through a lot and we have built strong mutual confidence. I consider myself really lucky because I have them by my side. Every day we find out something new about each other and that's why we are never bored. We love to try and experience new things because we are young and we are using every chance to bond more. It's hard to recall every single experience because there are lots of them. We are already planning to go together on different religious services to get to know each other even better. So far I find my new life in UWCiM very interesting and very beneficial in terms of my personal development. I did expect this when I applied for scholarship but I find my actual experience much more interesting than expected. I think that a great part of this is also because of my exciting, funny and awesome roommates. I'm truly looking forward to the next two years that I'll spend with them in UWCiM because I am aware that things like this happen once in a lifetime and we have to appreciate them so much. Good friends are hard to find but when you find them, do everything to keep them. I know I will.

Stela Rajić, UWCiM student, BiH

Students' Self Organisation at UWCiM

Making Diversity a Stark Force

With this school year, UWCiM introduced a new model of student representation that is expected, and already proven, to be an effective tool for bringing students' opinions out in the open.



UWCiM Assembly

Mature decision makers see a subject from all its sides – that's what the world needs. Fostering communication in the College is therefore one of the challenges that lies ahead of students self organisation at UWCiM.

“Considering that...”, „Yes, but...”, “But you also have to respect...”, “If you take all arguments into account...”, at the first College meeting of the year, the air of our Spanish Room is filled with arguments and counterarguments, objections and attempts to reach an agreement. As every UWC, UWCiM is not an ordinary school where students consume prescribed topics and leave the school building after three o'clock. On the contrary, it is an active bunch of motivated teachers and growing critical thinkers that spend most of their free time at the College facilities. Also, the fact that we pride ourselves in challenging values that can be interpreted in many ways causes a need for deep discussion. The central element of this year's student self-government is the College Meeting, where all the students meet. Randomly divided into small groups, led by a moderator, the participants get to know what it means to work in small groups with gripping topics. The 15 moderators, trained volunteers

who prepare the meetings, create the discussion atmosphere, balance the arguments, and serve as guides through the rigid to-do-list. They also prepare transcripts that are the main source of information for two student representatives on the College's Leadership Team, the highest decision making board inside the school. The representatives are myself and my colleague who is also a second year student, Andy Hamphill. We act there as spokesmen for all the students. Within the leadership team we communicate decisions and conclusions that all the students make on their own. Involving everyone in the decision making process has many advantages: in a school with peers from different backgrounds it is impossible for any representative to make a decision to all the students who want to participate, it is ensured that everyone understands how the representatives came to their conclusion. Involvement in the decision making process also amplifies the identification with the decisions and the school itself. And in the end, many perspectives from many different backgrounds

mean many potential solutions for different issues. “When it comes to students' representation, for the first time the diversity in our school is not seen as an obstacle to efficiency, but a true benefit of which we are just starting to take advantage,” says Andy Hamphill. “I must admit that it was somewhat releasing to talk about a topic with someone that you wouldn't be discussing that with every day,” adds Mohammed from Lebanon. It is common sense that every school has the mission to prepare its pupils for life in the tough world. This particularly applies to UWCiM. Considering that our world is full of disagreements, conflicts and missed chances for reconciliation, it seems to be a good idea to expose students to the making and defending their decision, as well as getting to know different ways of consent. Mature decision makers see a subject from all its sides – that's what the world needs. Fostering communication in the College is therefore one of the challenges that lies ahead of students self organisation at UWCiM.

Tobias Maier,
UWCiM student, Germany

UWCiM's Open Mic



“Open mic(rophone)” parties have established themselves as traditional in the UWCiM community. Since we are all very proud of our traditions and equally eager to have a bit of fun on Friday night, we continued this thoughtful founders' tradition. Once again the “Open Mic” started with hilarious karaoke performances and we were singing, aching, playing - simply having fun! But this time we had a special guest, MC of the evening – our amazing and smiling Chemistry teacher, DJ David. During the night, we were enchanted by the sounds of amazing voices, catchy tunes, guitar notes and happy faces of people jumping around, away from the school work and releasing their stress into the air. Check in time came much too soon and the relaxing and rhythmical “Open Mic” was suddenly over! We proceeded back to our residences, followed by heavy raindrops on our heads, which was just adding to our care-free spirit (or just being awfully irritating for some! :)

Srdjan Beronja,
UWCiM student, BiH

Global Awareness Sessions at UWCiM

Financial Crisis Impact on BiH

The new series of UWCiM's Global Awareness sessions in this school year have an ambitious aim to extend our students capacities in conceptual understanding based upon applicable knowledge of different global and cultural perspectives. The understanding of concepts which include a variety of topics ranging from that impact on the world which also encompasses, but is not limited to, environmental, social, cultural, political, and economic relations.

Our first presentation was entitled “Global Financial Crisis and its Impact on Developing Countries - Case Study: Bosnia and Herzegovina”. This was a very interesting choice for the first Global Awareness Session, since I believe we all clearly remember how our College was directly influenced by the world's credit crunch in 2008. Our guest for the occasion was Ms. Irena Jankulov, the economist working at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Office in Sarajevo. Her presentation and the subsequent discussion cleared our perception on how these global financial crises

spread worldwide and influence us directly. Ms. Jankulov demonstrated precise evidence on how the crisis first struck the United States and spread its affect on Europe while causing devastating impacts in the developing countries such as BiH. Once more session demonstrated the UWCiM students' great interests in global processes especially the ones affecting the poorest countries in the world. Unfortunately, limited time left lots of questions unanswered, but I'm sure that discussions on this topic make a regular portion of students' “small talk” at UWCiM.

Irena Vasilj,
UWCiM Visual Arts teacher



Irena Jankulov during her Global Awareness Presentation



Nicolai Svaneffjord
Preparing his Video Session

NEW Creativity at UWCiM

Video Productions are Here and Here to Stay!

Once again UWCiM has proven its flexibility and openness to various students' initiatives. I'm very happy to present a brand new creativity programme at UWCiM- Video Productions. I had this programme in mind for a long time and I was very happy when it was finally put on our official CAS list in October! We are the team of 12 students actively engaged in producing short movies about the College life and our community work. However, the first topic assigned to the group, meant to inspire creative left hemispheres of their brains, was producing their own music video, which is now in its final stage of editing. After this preliminary project is completed, up next on our agenda are series of documentaries about UWCiM and fascinating CAS activities. Within the Video Production the students are invited and strongly encouraged to experiment and play with some new editing programmes and to teach each other different ed-

iting techniques. In many ways this creativity programme is different from the rest of the CAS programme, because it is primarily based on individual work in minor groups. It has been organized in such a way to reinforce one of the fundamental strengths of being a UWC student: independence. This gives students the much needed flexibility to produce better work and to cope with their hectic UWCiM schedules. Aside from that, the increased level of trust and responsibility gives each student an honest chance for self-improvement. Therefore, I will finally call upon all students to fully utilize their share of responsibility and develop their personality that makes each individual proud. Please welcome this new creativity if you see them around the school and do not hesitate to participate and help out. If you have any interesting ideas for future projects we are always open to them. Work hard, play hard and have fun!

Nicolai Svaneffjord,
UWCiM student, Denmark

NEW: English Teaching Service for Gymnasium Mostar Students

Making Friends through Learning

A Czech proverb says: “Learn a new language and get a new soul.” In a world that is becoming more and more diverse and multicultural, the necessity of speaking more languages grows even greater. Today, speaking another language means more job

opportunities, better future and more chances in life. The English Teaching service within our College's CAS programme has existed for some time, but this year, we decided to bring it to a whole new level. Besides teaching extra English classes to our first years with weaker English skills, we are

now also organizing classes for our colleagues from Gymnasium Mostar. The teaching is organized through three different groups made according to their previous English level so we have Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate and Advanced groups. The classes are taught by UWCiM students, under constant supervision of our English A1 teacher, Barbara Lichtner. So every Saturday from 10-12 am, students from both Gymnasium Mo-

star curricula, Croatian and Bosnian, are attending our English language sessions together. As we were told by the students, our teaching methodology greatly differs from their typical English classes at school, but the approach that we're taking has proved to be a great supplement to their curricula. Through lively discussions, workshops and games, we are aiming to improve their conversational English language skills and I have the impression that we

are slowly getting there. The groups are small enough to secure active learning through active discussions on interesting topics. We are more than sure that the friendly atmosphere created during our common English Teaching session is a great platform for creating long-lasting friendships and deepening of our cooperation with Gymnasium Mostar students.

Ivana Jordanovska,
UWCiM student, Macedonia

Reflections on my First Year of Faculty and UWC Influence

Bigger, Better, Faster, More!

I believe that high school experience leaves a great mark on the life and achievements someone will accomplish later on. My high school experience is not some distant memory since I was a student of UWCiM's first generation. Making the decision about the place of my subsequent university studies was one of the hardest in my life. Fortunately, after one year of university experience I am very pleased with my final choice! Now I'm a second year student at University "Džemal Bijedić" in Mostar, taking my major in Psychology. I find my first university year very successful, accompanied by high grades and lots of new friends. I must admit that the habits of the UWC life-style, UWC spirit, the assemblies about time management, tips on fast learning, etc., were not just a part of the IB programme to be forgotten after the Diploma is obtained. Observing four students who were also my colleagues at UWCiM, I must be honest but not modest; and say we do stand out from most of the other colleagues on our course. But not everything is about high grades and academic skills! When I am talking about my university experience I must mention another

important segment - social life. UWCiM somehow installed a chip of an open and friendly mind into all of us making our university social experience pleasing as well. The one thing I would like to emphasize is that UWC students won't take injustice, which is probably one of the most important legacies of UWCiM! After UWCiM I am accustomed to expressing my opinion to all my professors and to speak directly if I feel jeopardized or unhappy about certain things. I'm also very active in our students' council and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. I take part in university discussions about social, global or economic problems, since the UWCiM taught us not only academic skills but life itself. I am so thankful to be given the opportunity to be a part of that experience and improve myself. To conclude, after UWCiM experience everything seemed less difficult in my first university year. Many times I found myself wanting more work and less free time, because that's what I was accustomed to at UWCiM. This is the most probable reason why I've joined so many academic activities since it's my way of reliving the UWC spirit!

Tanita Husković,
UWCiM alumna, 07-09

Presenting UWCiM and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Best Light You Can Do It!

I have played tennis since I was seven. Coming to UWCiM I chose tennis as my core Action within CAS. In my second year I become the leader of this activity and somehow, at the same time, I won the high schools' tennis tournament organized by the Mostar Sport Association. Therefore, it was perfectly natural for me to join the tennis team when I came to Lake Forest College. Playing tennis here and at UWCiM is much different in the sense that it is much more competitive here and we have tournaments every week. In order to become a member of the College sports team, one has to go through a very complicated procedure including series of medical checks by College doctors and dealing with a lot of paper work, especially if you are an international student. But, once you make the team, you forget all those complicated things because being a member of the team is Great with the capital G. There are so many positive sides to this that I am not even able to name all of them. One of the most important facts is that you become really good friends with your team-mates. Then, you get to travel with those friends all around the US, get to sleep in fancy hotels, in different cities, and you get all of that for free! You have a chance to meet many new people from other colleges and you already have friends all around US. And THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT: as you are travelling, you are visiting your UWCiM friends! I already visited two of my friends that live more than 400 miles away from me and this is what I love the most about the whole thing. When you play home matches, people from the College come to watch the match and support you. For me it is an amazing feeling when I play and my UWCiM mates Anja, Marija and Stipa are watching me and cheering in my own language. Even more amusing is how they teach my team-mates how to say YOU CAN DO IT (MOŽEŠ TI TO) in Bosnian and then during the next match, your team-mate's mum cheers with MOŽEŠ TI TO in front of the other Americans! Playing sports is demanding but as I already said - it is worthwhile! Athletics is really important and much appreciated around here. You get a chance to meet all the important people from your College, like the president and the deans because they all come to see the matches, and the professors have a full understanding for you and your academic tasks. It is a bit hard sometimes but at the same time amazing due to all those positive facts I've mentioned so I recommend you all - give it a try and see that MOŽEŠ TI TO - you can do it :)

Melika Čelebić, UWCiM alumna, 07-09



Melika Čelebić on the Tennis Court in Mostar



Melika Čelebić

We have a champion!

UWCiM alumna Melika Čelebić, was named Forester Athlete of the Week on Thursday (22 October). Melika deserved the title for winning the Midwest Conference Championship Tennis Tournament for her Lake Forest College for the first time in 20 years. This is how her victory was presented on the College web site. "Freshman Melika Celebic (Visoko, Bosnia Herzegovina/United World College) staked her claim as the league's top player by claiming the championship at the top spot in the line-up, despite entering the tourney as the #4 seed and wearing a team-mates' shoes. She rolled to a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Grinnell College's top player in the quarterfinals, defeated Lawrence University's best 6-2, 6-4 in the semi-finals, and then avenged one of her few losses this season by knocking off the #1 from St. Norbert College 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in the final. Celebic is the Foresters' first conference champion at #1 singles since Kris Ang accomplished the feat in 1989."



(on the left) Tanita with her UWCiM Friends from Mostar: Irma, Dino, Maida and Adem

Sharing UWC Goals and Values

Volunteering as a Passion

Volunteering plays an important role in my life. Only two months ago I made a big decision for my college education and declared my double major in Business Administration with International Business concentration and Russian Studies. A career in business does not seem to have anything to do with community service or my passion for being actively involved in the community I live in, but, at this point in my life, this seems to be the perfect choice for my future plans. Namely, I was involved in my community even before attending UWCiM, except now I feel I did not appreciate this experience enough until I started doing community service at the "Egyptian Village" Orphanage in Mostar. This was the first time I felt a strong bond developing between me and the little boy I was spending time with during our visits with to the orphanage. There and then I realized how a bit of my time can make a great difference in his life but in mine as well.

After graduating from UWCiM I came to the University of Richmond. Here I became a Bonner Scholar which is a wonderful programme that deepens education and commitment to social justice and civic engagement. I am a student coordinator for the Alliance for Civic Engagement (ACE). ACE is composed of student organizations on campus which are engaged with social and civic issues. Basically, I am a link between these organizations, the rest of the campus and the city of Richmond. The reason why I applied for the Bonner Scholar programme is because the premise of it reminded me of UWC goals and values. Through ACE I learned many organizational skills and made useful contacts. This was an important experience in my life, and ensured me that at this point in my life what I really want to do and work on is related to the non profit sector. During my first year in the US, I volunteered at Church Hill Activi-



Nikolina Talijan during her CHAT Service



Nikolina Talijan with Young Volunteers in Banja Luka

ties known as CHAT, were I gave tutoring lessons to an after school programme. Coming to CHAT helped me learn and understand the complexity of the US society, and realize that it is different from my everyday happy environment on Richmond University campus. At CHAT I worked with children who experience poverty, and deal with "real life" problems. I still love going to CHAT and spending time with children who come there. As a part of my Bonner scholarship I also did summer service this summer back home in Banja Luka, BiH. I worked for a non-governmental organization called "Perpetuum Mobile" at a centre for community and youth development. Working there I grew familiar with many aspects on how to run an NGO, how to apply for grants, do finances, do promotion work, and I have also met people from other organizations who work in this sector in BiH. Meeting people

and making contacts and connections was extremely important since I would like to go back and work in the NGO sector in BiH.

Nikolina Talijan,
UWCiM Alumna, 06-08

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