 Alumni services
Every student who leaves UWCSEA, regardless of how long they were here, is automatically a member of the UWCSEA alumni community. Some of the services that we offer alumni include:

OneºNorth
The alumni magazine of UWC South East Asia, first published in December 2007, is published twice per year. Please send your contributions and/or suggestions to: alumnimagazine@uwcsea.edu.sg.

UWCSEA alumni online community
Our password-protected alumni website located at http://alumni.uwcsea.edu.sg allows you to maintain your own profile, search for and contact other registered members, post photos and blogs, stay informed about news and events, etc.

Friends of UWCSEA online community
The 'Friends of UWCSEA' password-protected website located at http://friends.uwcsea.edu.sg allows parents of former students to stay in touch with each other and with the College.

Reunions and get-togethers
A reunion of the 40, 30, 25, 20 and 10 year anniversary classes will be held each August in Singapore. Other alumni are also welcome. Additional class reunions and alumni gatherings take place in various locations throughout the year, planned by both UWCSEA and its alumni. Watch the alumni website for updates and details, and let us advertise your events!

Alumni eBrief
The Alumni eBrief is a newsletter emailed to alumni throughout the year, containing brief news and information to keep you updated and informed.

Dunia
The College magazine is published three times during the academic year, containing College news and reports of events and activities.

Mentor opportunities
Volunteer to be listed in the mentor section of the alumni site if you are willing to be contacted by current students or other alumni for information or advice regarding your university or career; or visit the pages if you have questions of your own.

Career services
Check this section of the site for career opportunities or candidates, or post your own job opening or résumé. You can even set up alerts to be notified of new postings.

Gap Year-type opportunities for alumni
Check the Volunteer page of the website for short to long term volunteer work opportunities in Southeast Asia working with organisations supported by UWCSEA.

Old Interscols
Order your old Interscol in soft copy format via the store on the website.

Visits, tours and other requests
We are always happy to help in any way we can. Send your requests to us at alumni@uwcsea.edu.sg. If you are in Singapore and would like to drop in for a visit or a tour, we would be more than happy to show you around anytime.

Please keep in touch!

Number of registered members on the UWCSEA Alumni website (by country of residence)

Other countries represented
Albania, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Benin, Bermuda, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Rep, East Timor, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guam, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Jersey, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Macau, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, New Caledonia, Northern Ireland, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Sudan, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turks and Caicos, Uruguay, Zambia, Zimbabwe
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Editor Brenda Whately
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Please send your articles and/or suggestions for articles, as well as your class notes, for the next issue to alumnimagazine@uwcsea.edu.sg.

Cover photo: GO-JEK motorcycle taxis (see article, From Ojek to GO-JEK)

Photo courtesy of Michaelangelo Moran
Letter from the Head of College

The dawning of a new era at the College was marked on 15 August 2011 as the new East Campus opened its doors in Tampines to 1,500 students from K1–G10. It is remarkable to reflect upon the events of the last five years and how this project has evolved. It says much about the vision of the Board, the quality and professionalism of the staff and the health and resilience of the community that we have been able to steer our way so successfully through an extraordinary process of change.

The challenge for James Dalziel, the Head of East Campus, and his staff is to create not just ‘another international school’ but one that is readily identifiable as a UWC and exhibits all the characteristics that you will recall from your time at the College. It is early days yet but as you wander round the campus and engage in conversation with students of all ages, you sense that the culture is developing. They talk animatedly about why the College exists and its purpose; they have a deep understanding of the College ethos, and they know what is expected of them in terms of their responsibilities as global citizens.

The official opening of the East Campus took place on 8 December and was a particularly poignant occasion, not least because it was 40 years to the week that former Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, had officially opened the Dover Campus. Our Guest of Honour on this occasion was the Minister of Education, Heng Swee Keat. In his speech, he commented upon the government’s commitment to creating a world-class education hub in Singapore.

Whilst the East Campus is establishing itself, the staff at the Dover Campus are not resting on their laurels. In November, we hosted the College’s first accreditation visit by an external body, conducted under the auspices of the Council for International Schools and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The visit, by a team of 16 senior educators from other schools, was the culmination of a 12-month review and reflection by committees, consisting of staff, students, parents and Board members. They covered all aspects of our provision: admissions, university counselling, the curriculum from K1 to Grade 12, service, outdoor education, staff development, facilities, finance, governance and management, etc.

In their verbal report at the end of the week, the visiting team commended us, amongst other things, on the strength of the ethos, the quality of our service and outdoor education programme, the exceptional IB results, the ‘ethos of caring’ that permeated the College and the relationships between the Board and management. As you would expect, they made a number of recommendations that broadly reflected the conclusions of the self-study committees. Chief amongst these was the need to ensure that the curriculum was properly articulated from K1 through to G12 (i.e., that there was a logical progression from year to year and equality of access for all students in a grade).

Strange though it may seem, whilst governments, states and provinces have created K–12 curricula for their students, nobody has ever written such a curriculum for international schools. Our situation is, therefore, no different from other international schools. However, the Board has had the foresight to provide the resources for us to develop one rooted in the UWC ethos and reflecting the holistic nature of the education we provide. This is an exciting and innovative project and, once completed, will further differentiate us from other schools.

Towards the end of last term, the new High School students on the East Campus were asked to sum up their experience since they had joined the College. One of them, who I suspect has a future as a copywriter, wrote,

“Something new, something fun, something mysterious gathered together to create uniqueness.”

There is no doubt in our minds that the College is unique; it is wonderful when the students appreciate it as well.

Julian Whiteley
Note from the Alumni Office

It’s hard to believe that I have been with the Alumni Relations Department for more than five years now, since August 2006. It seems like yesterday that I joined UWCSEA and started getting to know such an inspiring group of former students.

There have been a few changes at the College over those years. UWCSEA now has two campuses. The new East Campus opened its doors in 2011, and this year is educating students from K1 up to Grade 10. In August 2012, the East Campus will see its first group of IB students. The Dover Campus, on the other hand, this year graduates its largest group of students to date; 316 students are heading off to university, National Service or a Gap Year experience.

We have a full reunion schedule this year, including several cities throughout the world as well as Singapore, and we hope to see as many alumni as possible at those events. We will also be celebrating the classes of 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002 in Singapore in August 2012. Each year, we get about 300 alumni returning to celebrate their 10, 20, 25 and 30 year anniversaries. Now we are able to add 35 and 40 year anniversary groups as well. Join your former classmates for your anniversary celebration!

We plan to start up some informal regional groups in various locations, and we also plan to launch a regular schedule of events for those of you living in Singapore.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the alumni magazine and its profiles and stories about some of your fellow alumni. Please let us have your stories and suggestions for future issues.

Take care. All the best.

Regards,

Brenda Whately
Director of Alumni Relations

Dover and East Campus update

Dover Campus

Upgrades to the Dover Campus continue to take place with a schedule that will run over the next few years.

A covered linkway between Dover Road and the guard house has been erected, and it is now possible to remain under shelter from the rain all the way in from the main road and throughout the campus.

A new five-story classroom block has been constructed between the Main Hall and the Physical Education Building, providing more classroom and student gathering space. It will house the Middle School plus a few High School classrooms and science labs, a state-of-the art gymnasium and a new performance hall along with plenty of open space.

At the same time, a covered extension to the Pavilion Canteen just outside the Exam Hall is well underway and a steel structure to support donated solar panels is being installed by the swimming pool.

The next stage of the upgrade programme includes preparation of the current Humanities block for refurbishment followed by the other classroom blocks.

East Campus

The East Campus was officially opened in December 2011. The purpose-built school is located in Tampines.

UWCSEA East is the first school in the world to have installed a large solar panel cooling system which will provide for all of its hot water needs as well as a large part of its air-conditioning requirements.

In addition to the tremendous environmental and cost savings, Head of College, Julian Whiteley says it has become a good lesson in sustainability for students. “We’ve been able to teach the students about how you can genuinely achieve sustainability and not just talk about it.”

The East Campus is now teaching K1 to Grade 10, but will be taking in its first group of IB students in August 2012.
From Ojek to GO-JEK

Two UWCSEA alumni turn a traditional service into a professional business.

By Brenda Whately

Michaelangelo (Mikey) Moran
(Class of 1999)
UWCSEA 1992–1999

Nadiem Makarim
(Class of 2002)
UWCSEA 1998–2002

“I didn’t think I would ever see myself doing anything CNN-worthy in my entire lifetime!” Michaelangelo Moran (pictured above left), known by his friends as Mikey, declared as he related to me how pleased and excited he felt when CNN aired feature coverage of his and founder/fellow-UWCSEA alumnus, Nadiem Makarim’s new company GO-JEK, just three months after its launch in Jakarta, Indonesia, January 2011.

The company has since been covered in a number of publications, videos, blogs and websites, most recently by Time Magazine and also by CNN, CCTV, ABC Australia News, MNC TV and Reuters Report, as well as the two largest English newspapers in Jakarta—the Jakarta Globe and Jakarta Post, to name just a few.

When Time Magazine’s video of the company and its drivers was featured December 2011, on their global website www.time.com, Mikey says, “It was probably as big for us as hitting CNN or having Eric Schmidt and Hilary Clinton recognise us.” He was referring to the Global Entrepreneur Program Indonesia (GEPI) awards in Bali in July 2011 at which they took first place in the non-tech category. One of the highlights was being acknowledged for their innovation by Google Chairman Eric Schmidt and US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton. Mikey says, “This was the award that put GO-JEK on the map—after this, we definitely shot up in demand.”

The idea for GO-JEK came to Nadiem Makarim upon his return to Jakarta in 2010 from the United States where he received an MBA from Harvard Business School. Nadiem had grown up in Jakarta aside from the four years he boarded at UWCSEA, and had always used ojeks as the cheapest, quickest and most efficient way to travel through the heavy and chaotic traffic there. An ojek is a motorcycle taxi, and there are over 35,000 of them in Jakarta. The service has always been available but there has never been an official or organised business structure around it.

In one of his first ojek rides upon his arrival back to Jakarta in 2010, Nadiem began chatting with the driver about the ojek situation. He was told that the system was very territorial—drivers were not allowed to pick up a fare anywhere but at their own station and then upon returning to their station, the drivers had to queue up behind all the other ojeks ahead of them.

Nadiem, on seeing how inefficient the system was, and recognising an opportunity, asked a couple of them what they would think of an organised, professional system which allowed customers to book a ride. That was the seed from which the idea of GO-JEK began to grow.

Nadiem invited Mikey and another friend to join him in the enterprise. Their idea was to form a company that would provide this service on a more official level with a brand image that people would recognise and trust.

Mikey and Nadiem knew each other before and during the time that they were both boarders at UWCSEA. Mikey had gone on to complete a business degree at the Boston University School
of Management in 2003. His plan was to prepare himself to eventually take over his parents’ fashion business in Jakarta. After graduating, he did some work in event management and retail, subsequently running his own event management company. Most of the design work for those companies was outsourced, and Mikey began to develop a desire to become involved in design work himself. He enrolled at the Academy of Art in San Francisco and graduated with a degree in Web Design and New Media.

Mikey has been involved in social and environmental projects in the past, including the Urban Forest Project (UFP) in San Francisco for which he designed posters relating to the concept of trees and life. One of his posters was chosen for display, after which the design was sold for t-shirts and handbags and the money used to fund the planting of trees in the city. Another social project he was involved with in Indonesia was DJ’ing for the IBU Foundation which raises money to build facilities and provide food and shelter for some of Indonesia’s poor, particularly in Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). Recently he has been approached by Volcom Indonesia to be involved in a project to save orangutans in Kalimantan.

Mikey is a much in-demand DJ. At UWCSEA, he played the piano, sax and drums and was in a band in his senior years. He attributes his love of music for the reason he became a DJ. He has worked at clubs across Indonesia as well as Singapore, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Mumbai, India. Currently he still performs in Jakarta and Bali, Indonesia and organises events for a local DJ organisation that he also designed a website for, called Trigger Production. His personal website is located at www.michaelangelomoran.com/djmikeyblog and his music can be downloaded at www.soundcloud.com/djmikeymoran.

Mikey worked on several different design and marketing projects before becoming involved with GO-JEK, but he says that this is by far his most exciting endeavour. As the brand director for GO-JEK, Mikey designed everything that involves the company’s image, including the company name, logo, website and promotional materials, right down to the drivers’ jackets and helmets. The company colours he chose were green, grey, black and white. The latter three colours, he says, represent the road, while the green is to represent the environment. One of the goals of the business is to be environmentally friendly, using less fuel to pick up and deliver more customers, and eventually to invest in electric motorbikes.

By December of 2010, friends and family members were testing the system to find any potential issues, and by January 2011, 200 drivers had been recruited, the website was finalised and the company was launched.

Mikey says, “Our company is the first of its kind in Jakarta. The management, the drivers and the customers are all really excited about this project because it is definitely what Jakarta needs, and we are growing at a greatly accelerated rate.”

The way the system works is that the drivers send an SMS to the GO-JEK system, identifying which of the 150 active stations they are located at. When GO-JEK receives a customer order, they call the driver closest to the pick-up point and send the customer an SMS confirming the order. GO-JEK takes a
commission from the total fare paid. Each driver is provided with a drivers’ kit containing a helmet, a jacket, an ID tag and a cleaning kit. They receive some vehicle insurance and financial assistance to get a license if they don’t have one (which some don’t!), and they receive training on customer relations in order to protect the company’s image.

Most of the drivers seem to take great pride in being part of the business, as evidenced by the interviews which have appeared in the various articles and videos done about the company.

The four current partners in the business all have input into the formulation of the company’s strategy. Right from the beginning, they decided to offer further services in addition to passenger transportation. These initiatives include courier service, document delivery, corporate services and even restaurant and grocery shopping and delivery. They have recently launched a monthly newsletter, a fare calculator and programmes including ‘Driver of the Month,’ ‘Customer of the Month’ and a photo project called ‘GO-JEK Spotted.’ Future plans include adding GPS systems and developing smartphone apps for their services.

Not only is the company newsworthy, it’s also worthy of the UWC mission and values. Their business plan has a social component—to improve the lives of others. Mikey states, “We believe that by professionalising ojeks in Jakarta, we can improve the welfare and status of ojek drivers, while providing Jarkartans with a practical and fast convenience service. It’s great to be able to help people.” Nadiem has said, “By giving ojek drivers access to orders they would not otherwise get, we provide them with additional income through a profit-sharing arrangement.” Ojek drivers who have joined GO-JEK have been reported to claim that their earnings have risen by 50%.

GO-JEK has been in operation now for just over a year and has grown dramatically in that time to 450 drivers, more than 35 corporate accounts, 4,000 unique customers, more than 5,000 followers on Facebook and over 3,700 on Twitter and has won three national awards. They have been approached by potential business partners in other countries but their concentration is currently on perfecting and growing the business in Jakarta for now. All indications are that they are on the road to success.

For further information about the company, please visit the website at URL: www.go-jek.com

Mikey and Nadiem can both be reached through the alumni website.

In September 2012, UWC celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The first UWC college, UWC Atlantic College, opened in 1962 in South Wales. By offering an educational experience based on shared learning, collaboration and understanding, it was intended that the students would act as champions of peace.

Today, there are 13 UWCs across 5 continents. UWCSEA is the second UWC, having opened its doors in 1971, originally called Singapore International School until it gained full membership in the UWC movement in 1975. More than 40,000 students from more than 180 countries have studied at UWC schools and colleges and there are more than 140 national committees.

Pearson College in Canada was the third UWC, opened in 1974, followed by Waterford Kamhlaba in 1981. Then came UWC-USA in New Mexico, USA and UWC Adriatic in Italy in 1982. Simón Bolivar UWC was established in Venezuela in 1988 and Li Po Chun UWC of Hong Kong opened in 1992. This was followed by Red Cross Nordic in Norway in 1995, Mahindra College in Pune India in 1997, UWC Costa Rica and UWC Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006. Maastricht UWC in the Netherlands became the most recent UWC in 2009.

This year, in September 2012, the UWC movement celebrates 50 years. For more information about UWC and its 50th anniversary, please see the UWC website at www.uwc.org and www.50.uwc.org.
Akihiko Hoshide, UWCSEA Class of 1987 heads to the International Space Station for the second time.

By Brenda Whately

Akihiko Hoshide, former UWCSEA student and astronaut, dreamed of travelling into space from the time he was about four years of age. In July 2008, he made his first trip to the ISS on board the space shuttle Discovery. The main purpose of that mission was to deliver and install the Japanese ‘Kibo’ (meaning ‘hope’) laboratory to the ISS. An article appeared in the December 2008 issue of One°North, the Alumni Magazine of UWCSEA, about Aki and his first mission to the ISS. A PDF version of the magazine can be found on the alumni site under Publications.

For Aki’s second mission to the ISS, currently scheduled for 15 July 2012, JAXA reports that he will be engaging in scientific experiments coordinated by Japanese scientists and international partners, as well as robotic arm and system operations in the Japanese Experiment Module, Kibo, as an ISS Flight Engineer.

We are hoping that Aki will eventually make it back to UWCSEA for a visit at some point after he returns to Earth. Unfortunately for his classmates, he won’t be able to join them during the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Class of 1987 in Singapore this August, but I think we would all agree that he has a good reason!

For more information about Aki and his mission, please visit the JAXA website and search ‘Mission 32/33’ or the NASA website and search ‘Expedition 32.’ You can also follow Aki on Twitter at: http://twitter.com/#!/Aki_Hoshide.
The desire to help others runs in the family. Caroline runs a charity shop in London following a social work career, working with people in need. She is the sister of Fiona Watson Ambrosi, featured in an earlier issue of the alumni magazine, the founder of the NGO Todos Juntos, which funds free dental clinics and a community centre in the slums of Buenos Aires. Elder sister Nathalie is also involved in charitable work, soliciting and delivering donations for Caroline’s charity shop.

Caroline and her sisters lived in Singapore for 10 years of their young lives, and all three attended UWCSEA.

After leaving Singapore and finishing her International Baccalaureate in France, Caroline attended Boston College, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Spanish. Although at first she thought she might be a teacher, after completing her Bachelor’s degree and living in Paris for a year, she gave in to her calling and moved to Canada to attend McGill University in Montreal, for a degree in Social Work.

Caroline says, “I always knew I wanted to work with those who needed help. That may have been influenced by my experiences at UWCSEA. I used to fund raise for various causes—we were encouraged to do so. I remember roller-skating to raise money. I knew I wanted to continue to help others.”

Caroline moved to London after graduating from McGill and has remained there since. She worked for four years with Vietnamese child asylum seekers until the refugee homes were closed after the children were reunited with their families. Her inspiration for this work included her memories of going to Rawa and Tioman with her family in the ’70s and seeing Vietnamese refugees coming in to Malaysia. She remembered the impact that it had had on her at the time.

She then worked with homeless men for a while until 1993 when she had her first child and took a year off. When she went back to work, she did so part-time, for supported housing for 16 to 21 year olds. By 1997 she was working part-time as a panel advisor for the Refugee Council where she worked with newly arrived, unaccompanied children to the UK. She was one of the first panel advisors and worked to ensure that these children were given the same rights as British children. She says, “After all, they were children before they were refugees.”

Caroline has always worked in the charitable side of social work and says she never wanted to work on the statutory side. Eventually she became a full-time manager with the Refugee Council, until 2009. She organised a drop-in centre in London in 1999 and pulled together a team for the children to see when they arrived. It was very successful, and the team, which grew to 15 people, began to see up to 100 children a day. They did case work, made regional visits and worked at the drop-in centre in London.

Over the years, the countries from which the children were arriving changed as the major areas of conflict changed, from Africa (DRC, Rwanda, Uganda) in 1997, to Kosovo, Albania, Serbia and Sri Lanka, also in the late 1990s and early 2000s and then more recently, Iraq and Afghanistan. The numbers have dropped these days she says, because it’s so much harder to get into the UK as an asylum seeker. She says just before she left that
work, she was constantly met with the situation in which she had to try to prove to the statutory social services staff that children they were calling adult asylum seekers were indeed still just children. She says, "We had a great track record of winning. Having lived abroad, I had perhaps more of an understanding of different cultures. We were able to get the best lawyers on our side. The work was really hard, but so satisfying." She says even now, some of the children who have grown up since she helped them, come to see her or talk to her by email or on Facebook. Some even call her ‘Mum.’

In 2009, Caroline decided to try something completely different and opened a shop. She runs the business as not-for-profit by donating the profits to charity. Although the shop is not registered as a charity, it is recognised by HM Revenue as Non Profit. To start the business, she collected donated goods which she kept in her garage. When she had enough to fill a shop, she signed a lease for what she considered a great location in London and in April 2010 opened the shop, which is called Give a Little. All proceeds, after costs, are donated to support grassroots charities that help children. She says her shop opened with a bang and has been very successful since. "People like the idea," she says. Last year she donated to four different charities, choosing one approximately every three months. She started with her sister Fiona’s NGO. She also donated to a youth group in the Refugee Council where youngsters can meet other young people and feel safe, a day centre and a group providing music therapy, a home for HIV orphans in Uganda, a trauma centre for children in Gaza, an educational trust in Ecuador and an orphanage in India. The total amount she donated in her first year amounted to GBP 33,500. This financial year looks to be about the same. She is currently supporting a charity in Morocco that helps give Berber children an education, as they come from very poor backgrounds. Her next charity donation will be to an organisation that helps street children in Brazil. Caroline also gives a smaller amount to local charities in her own country. Although she admits that the work is hard, she still finds it quite satisfying and has recently signed the lease for another two years.

Having worked in the charity sector most of her life, Caroline has a network of friends and former colleagues from whom she gets ideas and recommendations for the grassroots charities that she chooses to support. Her two main rules for supporting an organisation is that it must be registered in the UK and 90% of the funds she donates must go to the children that she is supporting. She tries to do one trip each year to visit one of the organisations she supports or plans to support.

Some future projects include supporting a Tanzanian orphanage that she heard about from a Canadian girl who walked into her shop one day and told her about the work that she was doing there. She would like to do something for Burma and Afghanistan and the Aborigines in Australia. She'd like to feel that she has eventually supported a worthy cause on every continent.

Caroline’s future plans include ultimately selling the shop and its name and reputation in order to recoup her investment and then setting up a project in Cambodia. She would like to start a project similar to the Happy Bus charity in Salvador, Brazil, which picks up street children, provides them with clothes, food, a health check, some leisure activities and then returns them to the streets from which they were picked up. She says she has been to Cambodia and has witnessed the poverty that exists there as well, and she wants to move there to help.

When I asked her what she likes best about her current work, she said, "I like handing over the cheque, knowing that the hard work has paid off."

Caroline notes that she has been very interested to see how the ethos and values instilled in her friends and family at UWCSEA have stayed with them even though they were all fairly privileged themselves. She says, "It makes me humble."

Caroline can be contacted through the UWCSEA alumni website or through her own website: givealittleshop.org. She would love to be contacted by anyone who remembers her.
Alumni vignettes from my Gap-Year-for-Grown-Ups

By Mallika Ramdas
UWCSEA University Counsellor

On a spectacularly beautiful, crisp fall morning in late October 2011, my ‘Megabus’ from Boston deposited me at its deserted Burlington, Vermont, terminal. I breathed in the lovely cold air while savouring the sight of sunshine on yellow-red-gold leaves and soon ‘Mikey’ (Michael Ogutu, UWCSEA ’08) pulled up in the Middlebury car he’d rented. We talked non-stop on the drive over to the picturesque campus where Mike had started as a freshman four years ago and from which he would soon be graduating. It was hard to believe that the earnest young Kenyan, who had left Senior House and Singapore the night of his UWC graduation, was talking now of his Middlebury senior research project and job search interviews in healthcare research and consulting.

Later that day, I was part of a happy, boisterous tea party with seven UWCSEA alumni, all at various stages of their undergrad lives at Middlebury. Between us, we represented Germany, Hungary, India, Kenya, Peru, the United States and Uruguay. Rachel Ochako (UWCSEA ’06), recently graduated from and now working at Middlebury as one of its Residential Life directors, hosted the mini UWCSEA-at-Middlebury reunion. Voices and laughter criss-crossed over endless cups of tea and a big platter of brownies and cookies. We talked about courses and majors; deadlines and procrastination; the challenges of finding jobs for those getting ready to graduate; the excitement of ‘study abroad’ experiences—Helena’s in Russia, Joaquin’s upcoming semester in Brazil; the culture shock of US campus social life for international students; Gap Year experiences after High School and in mid-life; our significant others and families; music and food; and, of course, memories of life at Dover Road.

These were just some of many “conversations we only got to start,” as Dana Miller (UWCSEA ’07) said in an email to me soon after I’d visited her and a few other UWC alumni at Yale, a few days before I got to Middlebury. “Meeting folks from previous parts of your life can do that,” she added. Dana’s words strike a deep chord in me during this year in which I have the luxury of time, travel, rest and reflection; a year in which I have consciously sought out ‘folks from previous parts’ of my life.

Being at Middlebury nine years after my last visit brought many different previous worlds together. I caught up with Barbara Marlow, Associate Director for International Admissions, who has admitted generations of UWC students from all the UWCs and seen them grow into adults on her campus. Barbara and I recalled our first meeting on what was to be a very dramatic day, 11 September 2001, when she visited Mahindra UWC where I was college counsellor at the time. The Davis-UWC Scholarship Program was only a little over a year old then, but already generously funded high-need UWC graduates to pursue a college education at five US Davis-UWC colleges: Colby, College of the Atlantic, Middlebury, Princeton and Wellesley. Ten years later, Shelby Davis’s incredible scholarship opportunity for

Left: Rachel Ochako, Mallika Ramdas, Alhaji Jalloh
Opposite left: Abiy Fekadu Tasissa (UWCSEA ’08, MIT ’12)
Opposite top right: Vaskar Pahari and Dana Miller at Yale
Opposite bottom right: Middlebury ‘tea party’ (front row, l to r) Michael Ogutu, Joaquin Marandino Peregalli, Krizstina Pjzecka, Anjali Merchant, Rafael Manyari Velazco, Helena Treeck; (back row) Rachel Amongina Ochako and Mallika Ramdas
UWC graduates has grown to support over 2,400 undergraduates from 146 countries at 94 participating Davis-UWC colleges all over the United States (www.davisuwcscholars.org). Over delicious blueberry pancakes and locally produced maple syrup, Jane Schoenfeld, who administers the Davis-UWC Scholars Program from its Middlebury office, and I traded stories of the many transformations that the programme effects in both scholarship recipients and their peers at the Davis institutions.

I relish the chance to meet some of these amazing young alumni and hear of their journeys in person. While sharing injera, doro wat and other Ethiopian delights, Abiy Fekadu Tasissa (UWCSEA ’08) looked back on his four years at MIT and reflected on how much he has enjoyed double majoring in his grand passion, Mathematics, as well as Philosophy. I smiled at my memory of the lanky youth who came to Singapore from Addis barely speaking English. We emerged from the restaurant into Boston’s first, ‘unseasonal’ snowstorm; a chilly wind whipped at Abiy’s light jacket, but he assured me he was warm enough and continued talking excitedly about his grad school applications. A few weeks before this, I spoke to another of my former advisees, Lailul Ikram (UWCSEA ’08), now a senior at Earlham College in Indiana. A 2004 Tsunami survivor himself, Ikram recently started an NGO that supports a women’s income-generation crafts project in his native province of Aceh, Indonesia. His start-up funding came from winning one of the Kathryn Davis Projects for Peace awards (www.davisprojectsforpeace.org) as well as from local and state governments. Ikram talked about what a challenging experience this has been and how he realised quickly that he needed to learn a lot about business and accounting!

‘Learn, Earn, Return’ is the motto that Shelby Davis urges young people to embrace. Meeting my former English students or University Counselling advisees convinces me that there are many different ways to give back to society. The UWC movement has seen an ongoing debate about how to measure how scholars, or indeed any UWC students, live up to the movement’s mission and values. ‘Returning home’ was often used, in the past, as a gauge of whether scholars delivered on the heavy investments made in them by the UWC national committees and member colleges. The notion of ‘home’ is an increasingly complex one for most UWC students, as also for many UWC teachers. To quote Dana again, “I am increasingly realising that soon, if not already, ‘home’ and ‘where my parents live’ won’t be the same place.” So where Dana will choose to pursue her dream of implementing new water-resource management technologies and practices after graduating with her Yale engineering degree is still unclear, but students with her drive and passion will do so somewhere, and it will make a difference to that community’s life.

Many of our alumni already belong to or are being prepared to join that elite one percent that the ‘Occupy Wall Street’ protestors have drawn our attention to with their protests against growing income inequality. Hopefully these alums will recall their relatively humble beginnings and draw on their UWC principles as they find ways to use their positions of wealth, power and privilege to ‘return’ in meaningful ways. Some may return to the place where they were born, or to the countries where their parents live, or they may adopt a different community that has become ‘theirs.’ Whichever it is, the accidents of geography, career and personal lives that place them somewhere do not preclude them from doing their bit ‘to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.’

A few weeks after returning from my travels northeast, I was off again—this time to meet up with my sister in Washington, D.C. At a dinner gathering to which we had invited my former Sierra Leonean advisee, Alhaji Jalloh (UWCSEA ’07), I listened intently as Alhaji talked about living in the US as a practising Muslim and his efforts to educate himself and his friends about each other’s religions. One of my sister’s friends turned to me and said: “You must be so proud of him!” I grinned and said: “Yes. Yes, I am. Of all of them.”
Another polar expedition for Tim Jarvis

By Brenda Whately

Tim Jarvis
UWCSEA 1978–1982
Class of 1984

Tim Jarvis has recently announced that in January 2013, he will be leading the official centenary re-enactment of Sir Ernest Shackleton’s history-making 1916 Antarctic expedition.

An exact replica of Shackleton’s 22.5ft (6.9m) boat, the James Caird, which will be used in the expedition next year, was launched in March 2012 at Dorset in the United Kingdom. It is named the Alexandra Shackleton, after the expedition’s patron, the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton, granddaughter of Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Technology, food and equipment used in the expedition will also be the same as that used in 1916, aside from some modern emergency equipment, which will be kept on board. A support vessel will follow the voyage and the expedition will be filmed for a documentary.

The expedition press release quotes the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton, saying, “The Shackleton Epic expedition is a fitting tribute to my grandfather, Sir Ernest Shackleton, as we celebrate the centenary of his astonishing voyage (1914–1916). Tim Jarvis is the ideal person to lead this expedition as his determination, along with the high caliber team he has assembled will honour the leadership of Ernest Shackleton.”

The press release goes on to say that the Shackleton Epic also aims to generate awareness of the importance of preserving Antarctica’s marine environment. The crew will film the ice melt in the region, and Tim will compare climactic conditions faced by his crew with those that Shackleton and his men experienced 100 years ago.

Tim says, “Whereas Shackleton’s goal was to save his men from Antarctica, we now find ourselves trying to save Antarctica from man—a very unfortunate irony.”

Tim’s concern for the environment has led him also to found what he calls a Do-Tank aimed at doing rather than just talking about doing. His aim is to turn the best suggestions for environmentally sustainable solutions into reality.

He says, “I often go on about the importance of ‘doing’ and ‘learning by doing’—it is after all, the essence of what my Do-Tank idea is all about. To clarify my position, although my focus is on ‘doing,’ it is in no way meant to detract from the importance of strategic planning and all that that entails. In actual fact, integrated design in the environmental field—looking at problems and solutions from multiple perspectives over time—is becoming ever more important.”

He describes his ‘Do-Tank’ in the following way: “Do-Tank is a clearing house, receiving and considering ideas with environmental worth and then determining and assembling the resources and project management skills needed to make the best of them happen. Unlike other web-based forums, it is a place where we not only initiate and develop ideas, but where we also commit to try and fund and project manage them into reality—the ‘doing’ bit. This is important because the implementation phase is where many of the real learnings about the viability of an idea are discovered—you only understand what the real issues and opportunities are when actually trying to implement an idea.”

Tim Jarvis has an MSc in Environmental Science and another in Environmental Law. He is an explorer, author and public speaker as well. Tim was featured in an article about his polar explorations and environmental sustainability work in the July 2011 issue of One°North, the Alumni Magazine of UWC South East Asia. A PDF version of the magazine can be found on the alumni website under Publications.

For more information about Tim’s ‘Do-Tank’ or his upcoming Antarctic expedition, please see his website at www.timjarvis.org or write to him via www.timjarvis.org/contact.
Gautam Banerjee  
Business leader with UWC values

By Brenda Whately

Gautam Banerjee  
UWCSEA 1971–1973  
Class of 1973

Gautam Banerjee celebrates his 30th anniversary with PwC this year and next year, his 40th anniversary since graduating from UWCSEA.

Gautam is the Executive Chairman of PwC Singapore and Chief Operating Officer for PwC Eastern Cluster, which includes most of Asia. He joined PwC Singapore in 1982 after achieving his B. Sc (Hons) in Accounting and Financial Analysis at the University of Warwick. He is a Chartered Accountant and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, England and Wales and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Singapore. He was made a partner at PwC Singapore in 1989 and Executive Chairman in 2004.

Along with a heavy workload, in true UWC fashion he has taken on several additional challenges, working on the Boards of a number of organisations, largely in a voluntary capacity.

Gautam attended UWCSEA, then called Singapore International School (SIS), from its very first year of operation in 1971 until graduating in 1973 as part of one of the first graduating classes. He recalls that in those early days the school had three or four Gap Year students from UWC Atlantic, who brought some of the UWC culture with them and worked as teacher assistants for a term or so. He also remembers the official opening of the school, presided over by then Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, and the impact it had on him.

Gautam had come to Singapore with his family when his father transferred from Mumbai. He was 16 years old at the time. Having come from a city school in Mumbai, he says that SIS was, “luxury beyond imagination, with its nice setting, greenery, low rise buildings and small classes.” He says he has many happy memories of his time here.

When asked if the school influenced him and his future choices in any way, he answers, “It opened my mind to think outside of what was a very narrow perspective I had had in Bombay. India was very closed at that time. When I arrived at SIS however, I was the only person from India in my class. I studied with German, Dutch, Australian, British and Malaysian students. It was my first exposure to an international environment—meeting people from different parts of the world. I had to keep moving away from my comfort zones. It made me embrace change and be more adventurous. I developed an attitude of go ahead and do it and then work it out.”

That attitude has remained with him since. A nominated member of Parliament for Singapore from 2007 to 2009, Gautam says that when the position was first proposed to him, his initial reaction was that maybe this was not a good time as he had a lot on his plate. But he decided to go ahead and accept the position and says that he is very glad he did. “It was an incredible experience.”

“It opened my mind to think outside of what was a very narrow perspective ...”

Gautam and his wife have two children, a son and a daughter, both of whom have also now attended UWCSEA. Aside from coming back to the school for his children, Gautam came to speak at the 35th anniversary celebration in 2006 at which he commented on how the school had not been good at keeping in touch with its alumni to that point. Coincidentally, a dedicated Alumni Relations office had been established just a couple of months before that anniversary celebration and Gautam said he is happy to see that since that time, the school is making a good effort to engage the alumni community.

When comparing his experience with his children’s experience at UWCSEA, he says, “Social service was just in its beginning stages in the early ’70s, but now I see in my children that social consciousness seems to have been embedded into their DNA.”

SIS may or may not have been where he picked up the UWC values of ‘giving back,’ but Gautam certainly does give back a significant amount of his time and talent for his chosen country of Singapore. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation and also serves on the Boards of the Economic Development Board, the APEC Business Advisory Council and the Yale-NUS College. He is a member of the Corporate Governance Council of the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Companies Act Reform Steering Committee, and since 2007 he has been a Director of the Singapore Arts School Ltd. In the past, he has served on the National Heritage Board. He also participated in the Singapore Promise Programme and the Distinguished Speakers Series whose goals were to attract and retain foreign and Singaporean talent respectively.

In addition, he and his wife Bashobi have self-published a couple of children’s books about their pet dog which Bashobi, a specialist English teacher, has written. The book has helped to raise over $10,000 for the SPCA.

Gautam can be reached through the UWCSEA alumni website.
Reunion 2011!


On Friday evening, each of the class groups mingled at a cocktail reception to break the ice before heading into the ballroom for an Asian-themed buffet dinner. After a lion dance and a couple of brief speeches, everyone had the chance to catch up with each other over dinner and party far into the night.

On Saturday, the class year groups participated in a number of events, meals and late-night celebrations organised by their own class year volunteers. Some of the members of the Class of 1991 had planned a game of soccer on the Ayer Rajah pitch Saturday morning, but perhaps not surprisingly, fewer players than originally planned actually showed up! The rest played valiantly on, regardless. On Sunday, everyone was invited back to UWCSEA for a barbecue lunch and tours led by members of the Alumni Council, made up of current Grade 12 students.

The Class of ’91 gathered together after lunch to relive some memories from the contents of a time capsule, which had been buried 20 years ago, just before their graduation. The time capsule had been completely forgotten about until it was dug up a few years ago during some construction at the College! If you placed an envelope in the time capsule and didn’t pick it up at the reunion, it’s waiting for you in the Alumni Office.

The weekend was a great success thanks to all the alumni who attended and took part in the celebrations, many having traveled back to Singapore from afar.

Hundreds of photos of the weekend have been loaded to the event calendar of the alumni site. Feel free to have a look!

We look forward to seeing alumni from the classes of 1972, ’82, ’87, ’92 and 2002 for Reunion 2012!
Reunions

Perth, Melbourne and Sydney, Australia alumni gatherings, October 2011

December 2011 saw the largest attendance yet at our holiday alumni get-together in Singapore. Lots of young alumni who had returned to Singapore from university for the holidays took this opportunity to come out and meet up with other alumni, friends and teachers, also here for the holidays. Joining us as well were a good number of alumni who are now working in Singapore. It was a great mix of people from a wide range of class year groups; a total of more than 245 alumni, teachers and guests. Next year’s event will take place on the 21st. Reserve the date now!

Fifth Annual Singapore December Alumni Get-together, 22 December 2011

Events were held in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney in October, before and after a conference which some of the Alumni Department staff were participating in. Attendance in Perth and Sydney was unfortunately affected by some major sporting events on at the same time, but Melbourne saw a packed venue. Thanks to those who made it to any of these events. Hope to see you again next year.
Sixth Annual London Alumni Get-together, 27 January 2012

The sixth annual alumni gathering in London took place on a bitterly cold evening in January, but that didn’t prevent almost 300 people from coming along to meet and mingle with other alumni and guests. This year, a presentation was given about the history and evolution of UWCSEA to update former students on how the College has maintained the ethos and values that it has always sought to instill in its students, while it continues to evolve its teaching methods and programmes. We look forward to 18 January 2013.

First Amsterdam Alumni Get-together, 28 January 2012

The first ever alumni get-together held in Amsterdam in The Netherlands attracted a nice group of just under 20 alumni from a variety of class year groups. It was a cosy gathering of alumni living, studying or working in Amsterdam and the surrounding area. The gathering was followed by a dinner that many of the alumni stayed behind to enjoy. We had several requests to hold another event there in future, and we hope to be able to do so next year. Stay tuned.

Hong Kong Alumni Get-together, 16 March 2012

The gathering in Hong Kong, which was held at the culmination of a week-long conference that some of the UWCSEA Foundation and Alumni Relations staff had attended, included a small but lively gathering of alumni. A couple of alumni had recently moved to Hong Kong and said it was a great opportunity to meet up with others who are also living there. We heard that the event may have started a little too early in the evening for some of our hard-working alumni (although it managed to last until quite late into the evening!), and we’ll keep that in mind for future events there. The evening was very enjoyable, and it was great to see and chat with those of our Hong Kong-based alumni who were able to make it.
Events and activities at UWCSEA

Just a sample of some of the things taking place at UWCSEA during the year. Thanks to Kengthsagn Louis, Grade 11 National Committee student from Haiti and member of the Alumni Council, for pulling out some of the highlights from the College calendar.

**Dover Campus mathematician takes gold!**

In November 2011, two groups of Grade 9 students participated in an international school mathematics competition (SIMSC) with a student from the Dover Campus winning the gold!

**Chinese Language Department visits the city of Hibiscus in China**

A group of Chinese language students travelled to Sichuan Province in China to visit the city of Hibiscus and practise their Chinese language skills.

**UN Night!**

In October 2011, the annual evening of cultural diversity took place once again with a fusion of dance, music and food from around the world.

**Current UWCSEA scholar from Aceh speaks at East Campus**

The UWCSEA scholar from Aceh, Indonesia gave a memorable and heartwarming speech during the recent masquerade ball. He spoke about the opportunity he has been given to study here and learn to be a global citizen who can help others, particularly the people and the country he loves.

**One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest**

In October 2011, Grade 9 and 10 drama students gave a fantastic performance of the play *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.*

**A tiger at UWCSEA**

A large, striped, furry tiger, the main character from the story *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr came in November 2011 to the K1 classes at Dover Campus.

**Leadership training for student leaders**

UWCSEA High School students have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through a programme of leadership workshops organised by alumnus Dale Fisher and teacher Susan Edwards.

**Girls Touch Rugby team wins SEASAC in Jakarta**

On a weekend in early February 2012, the UWCSEA Touch Rugby girls team regained the SEASAC championship trophy, winning a hard-fought final against Tanglin Trust.

**The Sound of Music**

In December 2011, an amazingly talented cast of Grade 11 and 12 students gave a breathtaking performance of *The Sound of Music.*

**Mother Language Day**

In February 2012, students on both campuses celebrated Mother Language Day, greeting each other in their own mother tongue, sharing their language with others and celebrating their diversity.
Fifth anniversary of Bali Bridges

Bali Bridges is one of UWCSEA’s Global Concerns. Primary School students celebrated their fifth year working with the Asih Foundation in Bali. Craig Coutts says, “Community spirit is natural to these children.”

Community building on East Campus

Students from East Campus participated in community-building activities by Jump. After the sessions, a students said, “I believe that many valuable skills were learned that will help us become strong, cooperative leaders, people that can really make an impact.”

Chinese New Year service lunch

In February 2012, the Main Hall at East Campus was filled with laughter and excitement to welcome the Year of the Dragon.

Official opening of UWCSEA East Campus

On Thursday, 8 December 2011 the East Campus was proud to welcome Mr Heng Swee Keat, Singapore’s Minister for Education to the official opening of campus in Tampines.

Basketball successes at SEASAC

The U19 Girls Basketball team won the SEASAC championships for the second consecutive year with a score of 63-37. The U19 Boys team also cemented a victory with a score of 39-31. Congrats to both teams!

PA supports the College

In November 2011, the Parents’ Association organised the Holiday Shopping Fair, followed by the Community Fair in February 2012. The events supported our Global Concerns and the Initiative for Peace.

Writers’ Fortnight

In January 2012, High School students on both campuses participated in a series of events about writing which included presentations by writers such as British humorist and author Neil Humphreys.

Critical Challenge Project

During March 2012, all Global Perspective students have undergone the Critical Challenge Project wherein they conduct a research essay starting with a question on an important topic like social media, religion, animal rights, etc. They then prepare an answer based on founded evidence and a range of different perspectives which they share with others and attempt to raise awareness.

UWC Day

In December 2011, the entire Dover Campus student body participated in a range of activities celebrating UWCSEA’s part in the wider UWC movement.
By Brenda Whately

I left Singapore on the second day of December during a dreary monsoon rain and arrived to a bright and sunny day at Traidhos Three Generation Community for Learning Centre in Chiang Mai, Thailand. There, I met up with a group of four former UWCSEA teachers who come back every year to teach students during the annual UWCSEA Grade 8 expedition to Thailand.

The two-week expedition, which all Grade 8 students participate in, includes one week in the classroom and on field trips and a second week of adventure. In the academic week, the students perform river studies, visit elephant sanctuaries and travel to local villages to observe village industries—all lessons related to Thailand in some way.

The day I arrived, the group who had just finished their classroom week grabbed their bags and jumped into the vans ready to head out for adventure week, while the students returning from their adventure week were introduced to the Centre and their rooms, where they would be sleeping in beds again—which I’m sure was a welcome reward for many of them.

I had come to visit the four former UWCSEA teachers who have each returned yearly to Chiang Mai for a number of years, to teach the new cohort of UWCSEA Grade 8 students. They are Brian Green, Karen Bishop, Margaret Collins and John Collins.

Every week for six weeks, the student group changes and the teaching starts over again until all tutor groups have arrived and left, richer in local knowledge and experience.

Brian Green, who has been with the programme since soon after its beginnings and has headed it up since 2005, first came to UWCSEA as Head of the Physical Education (PE) Department in 1971 when the school was officially opened. At that time, the College was called ‘Singapore International School,’ or ‘SIS’ because it was, for the first four years, an associate member of the United World College movement. The name was changed to UWCSEA in 1975 when it was granted full UWC status.

Brian had been recruited by the then Headmaster, Mr Meurig Owen, in part because of his extensive outdoor education experience. Along with teaching and being involved in many of the music and drama performances including the Singapore International Festival Chorus, Brian was asked to lead the search for an outdoor education facility. By 1974, he and his team had selected and had built a teaching facility on a site between the beach and the jungles of Johor Bahru, which they named ‘Beluntu.’ Many former UWCSEA students will recall travelling there by bus and boat to help to build the facility in the beginning, and others to spend time participating in classroom learning in a remote location far removed from the classrooms and city life of Singapore.

The programme had started out with weekend tutor group outings in the senior grades, but with Brian’s encouragement, quickly evolved to academic weekends and then week-long stays which included the younger grades as well. It began with Neil Breeze teaching English Literature—‘Chaucer in the bush,’ as Brian recalls—and Tim Agerback teaching European languages. Mike Venning ran intensive maths clinics there and Gavin Waddell, Head of Art added his support as well. Robert (Bob) Lutton, the Chair of the UWCSEA Board of Governors was a backer of the project from the outset, and Brian recalls that he held a full Governor’s meeting on site. There was even an IB science programme led by Dave Wilkinson and Tony Dilley, which produced some very interesting IB projects.

By 1984, Beluntu was closed by order of the Malaysian government, much to the College’s and to Brian’s personal disappointment. In the ensuing years,
the College opted for different locations and programmes for each of the different grade groups. These programmes have continued to evolve over the years since then, and the Chiang Mai programme for Grade 8 students is one of them.

Brian, having left UWCSEA in 1982, returned in 1986 to look after the Junior Boarding House as Assistant House Master and to teach Geography and PE. He left the College again in 1997 but just a couple of years later, was recruited by then Head, Andrew Bennett, for the Grade 8 expedition to Chiang Mai. Brian has been returning to teach in the outdoor education's academic week programme since the second year of its operation in 2000—this year being his 11th year!

When I asked Brian why he has been coming back for so many years, he says, "I am that lucky man who has loved every minute of my teaching career. I tell the students that they may be here because they have to be, but I am here because I want to be. We are all here to work, and I want to work with Grade 8. I will keep coming until I no longer feel this way."

Karen Bishop came to UWCSEA in 1986 to teach Home Economics and became Head of the Department in 1992. She taught Grade 6 right through to the IB Nutritional Science course until she left the school in 2003 to move to Australia. Two years later, with a strategically planned, flexible teaching schedule which allows her to spend more time with her husband and pursue her avid interest in scuba diving, she thought she would give the programme in Thailand a try to see if she enjoyed it. Six years later, she is still coming back and still enjoying each new group of students.

Margaret Collins had come to Singapore in 1972 to teach at Tanglin Trust School. She moved over to UWCSEA in 1996 to help plan the curriculum for the new Elementary School, which opened in 1997. Within her first two years, she had helped to establish the New Zealand expedition and then the Taman Negara expedition. She was then Head of Grade 5, followed by Head of Junior School before leaving in 2003 with husband John, to move to France. In 2006, after hearing the enthusiastic stories about the Chiang Mai programme from Brian and his wife Ethel, she applied to join the teaching team and has been coming back every year since. She says, "We are lucky to have the opportunity to come back each year; to keep a continuing link with UWCSEA and the Far East and to spend time with students who are so great to work with."

John Collins began teaching French at UWCSEA in 1972, leaving in 1982, returning in 1984 and staying until 2003 when he retired after being Director of Residence for seven years. He was involved in the Symphonic Orchestra, music tours and the Singapore International Festival Chorus along with Brian and Ethel Green in those early years. This is John’s fifth year at Chiang Mai, and he says he will continue to come as long as he is wanted because he loves it. He says, “Although this may sound trite, it’s great to be working with children again—making a mind work.”

I was surprised to see how busy they kept the students during the week. Even when they were out on day trips, they had discussions and projects to complete upon their return to the classroom about what they had seen and learned. On some of those outings, they had the opportunity to walk behind a plow pulled by oxen through the mud of a rice paddy field and then, in case their muddy legs weren’t enough, they got to plunge their arms in as well to plant rice seedlings. Many of them dirtied their hands again at the potters’ wheel. They visited a local temple and an elephant sanctuary where they saw elephants that had been rescued after sustaining injuries, some from land mines on the Thai/Burma border. At the end of the week the group attended a Kantokh dinner, sitting around trays of food, watching and joining in local music and dance performances.

Four young alumni, Gap Year students, accompany the groups each year,
alternating between the adventure and academic weeks, helping out with the student activities and maintaining the expedition blog. The teaching staff agree that many have made significant contributions to the programme.

Describing his team, Brian says with pride, "I believe we make a fine and efficient team. We are good friends, we take our work very seriously and we demand quality involvement and productivity from the students. Equally, we enjoy helping them to achieve, and we do enjoy their company."

All four teachers can be reached through the UWCEA alumni website.

An educational experience in Northern Thailand

Brian Green
Programme Coordinator

The year 2012 marks the twelfth year that Grade 8 students, 13/14 years old, from UWC South East Asia, Singapore, have been privileged to stay at the Traidhos Campus in this rural region, some 20 kms north of Chiang Mai City, Thailand.

The stay is an integral part of the Grade 8 College curriculum, and we are resident at Traidhos for seven weeks from late October to early December each year.

The four-member staff team, two ladies and two gentlemen, is made up of well qualified and experienced teachers; all of whom have held senior positions at UWCSEA in the past.

During this decade, some 3,000+ students have benefited from being here.

Traidhos offers us a splendid, comfortable and secure campus on which to live and work, providing us with easy access to a stimulating environment in which to carry out our challenging programme.

Our programme has certainly developed over the years, so that now all aspects of the student work are directly related to our being in rural Northern Thailand, providing a striking contrast to the super-modern, urbanised environment of Singapore.

The V.S.P. (Visiting Schools Programme) Department welcomes our annual visits, and we gratefully accept their assiduous attention to detail as they cater for all our needs on campus. In addition, with the assistance of Chiang Mai Adventure Tours, they provide us with local guides and mini-buses/coaches as appropriate, for the off-campus activities.

To mark our 10-year friendship, in 2010 we were granted permission for a group of our students to plant a tree on the campus. It is a ‘Cassia Fistula’—a ‘Ratchaphruek’ or ‘Dok Khuen’ in Thai. Its common name is ‘The Golden Shower Tree.’ The yellow flower is the national flower of Thailand and symbolises Thai royalty.
Giving back

By Brenda Whately

UWCSEA 1976–1978
Class of 1978

Dale Fisher lived and studied at UWCSEA for two years in the late '70s as an Australian National Committee scholar. He came back to Singapore in 2003 with his wife Michelle to join the National University Hospital’s (NUH) Infectious Disease Unit and enroll his three daughters at UWCSEA.

He has been giving back to UWCSEA in several ways since his return to Singapore, including speaking to students at all grade levels about disease and disease prevention, becoming involved in Careers’ Day, being elected to the College’s Board of Governors, supporting two scholars to date as part of the Class of '78 Scholarship Fund and coaching the girls’ basketball teams to many victories. Recently, the Senior Girls team beat SAS (Singapore American School) for the first time in many years.

Spending time around the sports department and having children on the Sports Council, Dale began to notice an opportunity for some student leadership training and offered to put a course together. He wondered at first if there would be enough interest from the students, but he needn’t have worried. Members of the Global Concerns groups were invited to sign up as well. With participation capped at 24, the course was immediately oversubscribed. Those who didn’t get in asked for a second course to be run, and that too became immediately oversubscribed.

Dale used his experience as a lecturer at NUS (National University of Singapore) and his role as a trainer at WHO (World Health Organisation) where he trained people regarding outbreak response and management in a simulation format, to design the interactive leadership course. Its aim was to provide information on how to run a group meeting efficiently and effectively as well as how to use different management styles to get the most out of different members of the group or committee based on individual levels of motivation and talent.

Each course was held on two consecutive Saturday mornings for two hours each time for a total of four hours. A month later, a follow-up meeting was held to discuss what improvements had been achieved, if any, in the management of the students’ groups and group meetings and to allow the students to ask more questions and make suggestions among themselves.

Feedback has been extremely positive, and the course seems to have made a difference for some of the students and their groups. The only reported complaint was that the course was just too short!

When asked why Dale has given so much of his time to the College, he says, “If it’s worthwhile, there’s a need, I have the capacity to fill the need and the College gives me the opportunity, I am always happy to help.”
I was born in London. It is the city where most of my family lives, where I spent my early childhood, where I went to university, where I spent most of my working life, where both of my children were born. In a small way, it made me who I am and holds a special place in my heart, so it was very difficult to watch when the city and then country were ripped apart by riots last summer.

I am old enough to remember the riots that gripped Britain during my childhood in the recession of the 1980s when the miners and police fought, when football fans rioted and neighbourhoods in Liverpool and South London where I spent my early childhood, burned. When northern cities were hit by riots in 2001, I remember thinking, perhaps smugly, that in London we had learnt the lessons of the past and were able to resolve problems more peacefully. Last summer during the riots, I discovered I had been wrong. I needed to know why and began working with colleagues at DokoFilms to find answers.

When we started speaking to people about the riots, at first, their stories confused me. We knew if you were black, however some black community leaders voiced concerns, not so much about white police officers, but rather about police officers from outside London with no previous experience of ethnically mixed neighbourhoods; the pastor of a local church explained how he helped negotiate a structured ceasefire between the supposedly ‘mindless youth’ rioting and the police to allow an ambulance to evacuate an injured pensioner, a shopkeeper, whose store was gutted, found local people returning stolen goods and raising money to re-build the shop; a family that spent the riots sleeping with knives under their pillows were more scared of self appointed vigilantes than of the rioters; and stories emerged of a bizarrely wide range of people looting shops.

Things only started making sense to me when we began listening to the perspectives of people involved in previous disturbances. Slowly it dawned on me that last summer’s riots weren’t new. Previous generations lived through serious disturbances, such as sectarian disturbances in Northern Ireland in 1969, race riots in Notting Hill in 1958 and the Battle of Cable Street in 1936, when half a million ordinary people fought the fascists and brought East London to a standstill.

An older black community leader in South London talked about the ’50s and ’60s and white areas he couldn’t really go to when he was young, as well as black areas it might have been difficult to walk through if you were a white kid. While his children now had friends of all colours, the no-go areas still existed, with young people today defining and organising themselves into ethnically diverse postcode-based gangs. An East London councillor, who was involved in marches in the 1970s, explained why new youth centres were in the wrong places, with young people unable to get to them without travelling through ‘hostile’ postcode areas where they were at risk of attack.

An activist involved in the miners’ strikes in the ’80s recalled how facing police bussed into Yorkshire from London, increased tensions. People connected to the 1936 Battle of Cable Street talked about the surprise of the local Jewish community when they were met by police from outside London, who they felt didn’t understand the local community. Sometimes we found people from different generations agreeing. Older generations expressed frustration at ‘the youth of today’ not being politically engaged and about absent fathers abandoning their children. Youth workers agreed; they felt young people, often from areas with high unemployment, believed politics weren’t relevant to them and sometimes turned to their branded goods for self esteem, identity and values.

We also found older generations that wanted to be heard, community leaders and younger generations that wanted to listen and many stories that had yet to be told. With the support of the local community, we have decided to make a documentary to captures these stories, starting with conversations with Jewish men and women who stood down the fascists in the 1936 Battle of Cable Street. Their actions prompted the government to ban further similar marches and may have helped prevent the spread of fascism in Britain, even as it took hold in many parts of Europe.

On a personal level, I feel these stories also help explore a question that sits at the heart of the UWC movement. Are people shaped by history, or is it possible, from time-to-time, for people to shape history themselves?

To maximise the involvement of the community, we will be filming the documentary in stages and sharing our progress online. To finance the documentary, we will be running a series of crowd funding campaigns on Indiegogo.com in which we plan to give out ‘perks,’ such as exclusive footage or books signed by their authors.

To learn more about the project, please visit www.dokofilms.com, see the dokofilms site on Facebook and Twitter and/or visit the indiegogo.com website. You can also reach Rahul directly at rahul@dokofilms.com.
About Rahul

Rahul was born and brought up in England, moving to Singapore with his family in 1985 when his father began lecturing at NTU. After studying as a day student at UWCSEA from 1985 to 1991, he returned to London for a degree in economics at LSE.

Rahul began his career in media, working for a local newspaper in Russia, for Bloomberg News in London and then as a press officer for the government. After returning to LSE for his Master’s degree, he switched career to management consultancy, first working for the Monitor Company and then KPMG.

In the meantime, he also had time to start a family and now has two daughters. A few years ago, the family moved to Amsterdam, where his wife is originally from, giving Rahul time to focus on some business ventures and also return to his first love, journalism. He has been working as a producer at DokoFilms, which is based in East London.

After the recent riots in the UK, the team at Doko felt the entire story hadn’t been told and decided to work with the local community to develop a documentary that would provide a platform to help people discuss the riots and learn from the past. The inspiration for the approach, which keeps the community involved throughout the film-making process with a focus on crowd funding, comes from many of the social movements that have come to prominence in the past decade.

In his spare time, Rahul volunteers as the trustee of Re-Cycle, a charity that sends second-hand bicycles to Africa, and has also from time to time provided support to friends that run charities working with young people in inner city areas in London. He still stays in touch with old friends from UWCSEA, attending reunions in Amsterdam, London and, last year, in Singapore.
A week in Timor-Leste

By Aashna Aggarwal

UWCSEA 2010–2012
Class of 2012

When I signed up for Initiative for Peace 2011 (IfP), I didn’t imagine it to be anything more than two hours of weekly debate, delving into the intricacies of peace. The very first session put an end to that expectation.

Our group of about 50 Grade 11 students discussed the issues within the conflict-filled Timor-Leste. Eventually, some of us would be selected to facilitate a conference in Timor-Leste with local students as participants. In some sessions we planned the conference and in some we were trained by outside speakers on how to be good leaders and in other sessions we just explored the rich heritage of East Timor.

One of the 25 selected to facilitate the conference held in the first week of the summer break, I began to question whether I should attend or not. Was it really worth one whole week of my much awaited holidays to travel to another country not knowing what the outcome would be? What if we really didn’t make a difference? Could I put off meeting my friends and family who I was utterly homesick for?

The preparatory sessions in themselves had taught me so much. I was a strong, confident speaker and could hold true to my opinion. When I first started out, I was diplomatic. If someone had an opposing view, I went along with it. But through the year, I gained the courage to stand up for what I think is important. I also learned to appreciate what I have and understand that though I may be in a peaceful environment, countries are still dealing with the remnant violence from previous wars. In the end, I decided IfP 2011 was something I wasn’t going to give up, and it is a decision I don’t regret one bit.

The participants were simply amazing in terms of their ideas, passion and drive to make their home a better place. The Timorese are extremely friendly, and we at once felt at home. Thanks to a generous nun, we were allowed to stay at her convent. We roomed with the participants, we ate every meal with them and basically did everything together in that week. Once the ice breakers were over, the actual conference began. I was taken aback by the knowledge these students had. I admit I hadn’t expected their English to be as good, or expected them to actually convey such well-developed thoughts. But the surprise I felt turned into respect. I respect how the students never complained, how they made a strenuous effort to speak in English even when they were not the most comfortable and how they did everything we planned even though at times it bordered on being silly.

Among we facilitators, groups of three or more had themed days they were in charge of. Two other girls and I comprised the Tuesday Team dealing with human rights and conflict resolution. The first thing we had to do was get in contact with some human rights organisations we wanted to invite to inspire our participants. Our team set off to pay them a visit. The first visit went really well, and a church group that deals with conflicts agreed to come. The second visit, on the other hand, though fruitful, really put things into perspective for me. Lili is the head of a foundation against human rights violation. She admitted to having deleted my repeated emails because as she explained, they were from a student and what great consequence does a student have? I couldn’t blame her. Yes, it would have been nice if she had gotten back to me to learn more about IfP but in the real world, that’s not always going to happen. It is small incidents like these which bring us closer to reality and out of the protective bubble we are sometimes in.
Once we finalised our speakers, we got on to actually tightening our schedule. With a variety of activities planned, we had to have exact timings. On Tuesday, we started out great. The participants were enthusiastic, we were ready and everything seemed to be flowing perfectly. But behind that veneer was the frantic adjustment of activities to fit our timeframe because not everything took exactly the amount of time we had allotted. Some discussions went overtime, some presentations were too short and our video on Martin Luther King was cut off. But in the end, I think we pulled it off. The participants were inspired and so were all of the facilitators.

Through rigorously planning one day of a conference, I acquired a number of skills. Teamwork is the key to a great product and had the three of us on Tuesday Team not supported each other at every juncture, we would have failed. Sometimes, you just have to trust what the other person has in mind because like I often saw, it can turn out to be fantastic. We had to be flexible; to be open to change. We had initially planned for the participants to make a poster about human rights but they loved doing role play, so we altered our plans. Everything didn’t go as planned, but everything did go well. That’s something I will always remember—if what I want isn’t happening, it doesn’t mean it’s wrong.

The rest of the conference had a number of other activities which were organised by my fellow facilitators. There was a Model Timor-Leste, mirroring Model United Nations (MUN), that had the Timorese taking on the role of government, with us playing outside influences so they realised how hard it is to come to decisions that affect an entire country. We visited a local school in an attempt to teach the Timorese how they could conduct lessons, teaching what they had learnt during IFP. There was a tree planting expedition headed by an ex-participant, and we planted around 100 trees. We also had a mini-United Nations (UN) night with performances which included Bhangra, the Saman dance and the salsa to lighten the mood towards the end.

When our conference was over and it came time to leave, every single one of us cried. Be it a participant or facilitator, the week had changed us. We were all friends now, used to supporting each other even if it was just for seven days. Our relationship had been of mutual learning because while we spoke about what we knew, they gave us so much more. Their brimming passion to be the change infused in me the same passion to do something and to do it now.

The things we had organised for them also influenced me. The tree planting, the Model Timor-Leste, the visit to a local school and the talk on cultural unity, affected me. IFP 2011 and the students I met are a part of me—they inspire me every day. If I had to choose one experience that summed up what I’ve learned after moving to the UWCSEA boarding house in Singapore, it would without a doubt be my week in Timor-Leste.
Former Olympian takes on new challenge

By Brenda Whately

Mayumi Raheem
UWCSEA 2001–2010
Class of 2010

Mayumi came to Singapore from Sri Lanka with her family when her father accepted a position at Singapore Airlines. She attended UWCSEA for 10 years, graduating in 2010.

During all of those years, Mayumi continued to develop her talent in swimming, and in 2008 she reached the ultimate goal, swimming for Sri Lanka at the Beijing Olympics.

Both of Mayumi’s sisters, Machiko and Kimiko, also UWCSEA students are swimmers too, currently training in Sri Lanka. Machiko is a hopeful for the 2012 Olympic team.

Mayumi started swimming before the age of four. At first she says she didn’t like it at all and had to actually be forced into the pool. As she grew older, however, she developed a real passion for it, and it became a huge part of her life growing up. She says as she began to take it more seriously in the way she approached her training, diet and lifestyle, she began to notice how fast she was improving.

When asked how she fit her swimming regime into her High School studies, Mayumi says she did just the opposite. She squeezed her studying in around her swimming schedule. She says, “I trained both morning and afternoon on most days, and I found that in the times I wasn’t training, I was eating or sleeping because I was so tired, but I managed to fit in at least one hour of studying every day before retiring to bed at around 9pm.”

She must have managed to focus well during those study sessions because after graduating from UWCSEA, Mayumi was accepted into Medical School at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney. In true UWC style, her desire to study medicine is at least in part due to her desire to continue to embrace challenge and to make a difference in the world. She says, “As I grew older and engaged in social service at UWCSEA, I became more certain that Medicine was the career for me, as I wanted to have the power to make a difference to the lives of those in need.”

She also managed to play touch rugby and netball in Middle School and basketball in her High School years. She includes being chosen to represent the school in basketball, winning the swimming championship at SEASAC and being awarded Sports Girl of the Year, as being some of her favourite memories of her time at UWCSEA.

Mayumi says that while she deeply misses swimming competitively, she doesn’t regret her decision to choose education over her sport for now. She appears to be as passionate about Medicine as she is about swimming, and she notes that she knows she can’t give them both her absolute attention at the same time so she is focusing on the one that she feels will be most important in her future. She says, “I am lucky to have found something that I love just as much as swimming.”

Swimming has these days had to take a back seat to university studies. Mayumi says that not only has she had to cope with the increased challenge of the courses she is doing but she is also coping with living alone for the first time. She did join the university team and swam with them for her first semester but says, “I found it impossible to train, study and be able to feed myself adequately all on my own. I realised at that point how much my mother had taken care of me during my training in the past, following me around like my shadow, carrying food to feed me while I studied!”

Mayumi says that while she deeply misses swimming competitively, she doesn’t regret her decision to choose education over her sport for now. She appears to be as passionate about Medicine as she is about swimming, and she notes that she knows she can’t give them both her absolute attention at the same time so she is focusing on the one that she feels will be most important in her future. She says, “I am lucky to have found something that I love just as much as swimming.”

Mayumi can be reached through the alumni website.
The Royal Geographical Society (RGS) is the UK’s learned society and professional body for geography, founded in 1830. The Society advances geography and supports its practitioners around the world, and the Singapore branch aims to further this objective locally.

The Society has never been more active and open than it is today. As a charity, it serves an exceptionally wide range of public and professional audiences, and its work reaches millions of people each year.

Through its activities, the Society promotes, supports and enhances geographical research, education, fieldwork and expeditions, public engagement, knowledge transfer to policy, and the professional accreditation of geographers. It also holds one of the world’s pre-eminent geographical collections that spans over 500 years of discovery and geographical science.

The Society has recently started a branch in Singapore, with the help and involvement of UWCSEA. It is planning to feature speakers who have an interesting experience and/or appropriate expertise to share with an enthusiastic audience with a passion for exploring the world we live in. Themes will range from exploration and adventure to topical issues like deforestation, urban futures and climate change, to people and wildlife in their environments.

The first speaker for the Royal Geographical Society’s Singapore branch was Dr Hans Rosing, an expert on the links between economic development, health and wealth in Asia. The second speaker, on 1 June, will be UWCSEA alumnus Tim Jarvis, environmental sustainability expert, award-winning polar explorer, author and public speaker.

If you have been somewhere incredible, done something remarkable or discovered...
something amazing, and you are available to speak in Singapore, The Royal Geographical Society’s Singapore branch would love to hear from you. Please write to: singapore@rgs.org

Daniel Orr, Geography teacher at UWCSEA has this to say:

“The RGS has an illustrious history, is supported by more than 15,000 Fellows and members in over 100 countries and describes itself as ‘at the heart of geography.’ The Society is also an innovative and forward looking organisation that continues to inspire an understanding of our changing world and the big issues it faces in the future.

UWCSEA’s Geography Department is therefore very pleased to not only be supporting this initiative, but to be taking a leading role in setting up a branch of the RGS in Singapore. This truly is a fantastic opportunity as it will expose students to inspirational speakers, empower and enable them to take responsibility for shaping a better world. The study of Geography also lies at the heart of the UWC movement as it is a powerful subject, providing young people with the knowledge and understanding to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. As Michael Palin, the current president of the RGS, recently wrote in an article for The Guardian newspaper, “Geography students hold the key to solving the world’s problems.”

The opportunity for involvement arose after Pete Read, a current parent, keen geographer and entrepreneur contacted UWCSEA to see if Geography teaching staff were interested in getting this large project off the ground.

We aim to entice inspirational speakers with a background in geography and/or exploration to come and speak at the College. We look forward to them with excited interest.
Graduate gifts leave lasting mark on the school
In May, another set of young UWCSEA graduates will leave behind a gift for future UWCSEA students to enjoy and benefit from.

Building on a tradition that started in 2008, the 2011 graduating class chose to contribute towards a unique waterfall and some personalised tiles for the new Dover Campus classroom block.

Our thanks go to all the grads who have contributed over the past few years. When you come back to visit, you’ll see your gifts in action.

The Miltons give the gift of education through an Endowed Scholarship
For Vietnamese scholar, Yen Chi, having a visit from donors, Robert (Class of 1978) and Lizanne (Class of 1983) Milton, was the perfect way to end her first term at UWCSEA. The Miltons took the opportunity to catch up with Chi and her friends during a visit through Singapore in December. Chi, whose two-year IB scholarship has been made possible through the Milton’s generous endowed scholarship, is immersing herself in a range of activities including International Evening and the Harvard Model Congress. During the October break, Kengthsagn, together with a group of eight other scholars, completed a service project for a village in Tagaytay, Philippines. She has also become a member of the Alumni Council. Several members of the Class of ’78 got to meet Kengthsagn during UN Night as well as the December Alumni gathering in Singapore.

The Stallviks help to change lives through education
The Foundation wishes to acknowledge Tord and Kimberly Stallvik for their recent generous gift. As a former student himself and motivated by his own experience at UWCSEA, Tord hopes to establish a scholarship with his former classmates. Tord says,

“I can only imagine the life-altering impact of a UWC experience for students from conflict zones or other difficult circumstances. We have been supporting educational causes for a while and doing more with UWC is a natural part of that. Education is the single most important factor (except maybe immediate family circumstances) in our individual development and society’s progress more broadly.”

Class of ’78 funds a second National Committee scholar
Members of the Class of 1978 welcomed their new scholar, Kengthsagn from Haiti when she started Grade 11 in August. In true UWCSEA spirit, Kengthsagn is involving herself in a range of activities including International Evening and the Harvard Model Congress. During the October break, Kengthsagn, together with a group of eight other scholars, completed a service project for a village in Tagaytay, Philippines. She has also become a member of the Alumni Council. Several members of the Class of ’78 got to meet Kengthsagn during UN Night as well as the December Alumni gathering in Singapore.

Reunion Class of 2001 Yearbook to fund Gap Year experience
To commemorate 10 years since graduating from UWCSEA, the class of 2001 decided to make a gift to the College through their reunion class yearbook project.

Lilian Lee, project coordinator and 2001 alum explained:

“The Reunion Class Yearbook not only offered a chance to look back at how much the class had all changed, but it was also a great way to involve classmates who were not able to attend the reunion. Importantly, the sale of the books would allow a scholar, who otherwise would not be able to afford it, to take part in a life-affirming Gap Year experience in 2012.”

Although the reunion event has passed, there is still a chance for 2001 alums to purchase a copy and get involved. Simply check out the Class of 2001 page on the UWCSEA Foundation website.

Class of 1990 trees in memory of eight former classmates
In memory of eight former classmates, the Class of 1990 planted eight trees on the Dover Campus. The balance of the funds collected went to support the UWCSEA Scholarship programme.
Class of 1981 donates excess reunion celebration funds
The Class of 1981 donated the excess funds from their 2011 reunion dinner, to the UWCSEA Scholarship programme.

Fifty percent scholarship for four more students of promise and potential in Singapore
UWCSEA is proud to announce that there will be four new 50% scholarships open to Singaporean citizens, permanent residents and children of expatriate families for the two-year IB Diploma programme at the new UWCSEA East Campus, beginning August 2012.

Second Annual Fund campaign off to a great start
UWCSEA launched its second Annual Fund in November 2011. The first Annual Fund campaign paid for two full additional IB scholarships and increased the amount of green space in our campuses through our tree planting project. It also allowed us to drive forward programmes that will further enrich the College community and provide exceptional professional development.

This year, with your help, we will enhance the educational experience and the number of scholarships at UWCSEA even further. Please consider making a donation to UWCSEA’s Annual Fund today and empower, enable and invest in the future generation of global citizens that are following in your footsteps. Gifts of any amount can make a real difference.

Follow the Foundation
To find out all the latest Foundation news, join our UWCSEA Foundation Facebook group or follow us on Twitter at Support_UWCSEA.

For further information about any of the news on this page, or for details about how you can make a donation, fund a project or for details about leaving a lasting mark on UWCSEA, visit our website at http://foundation.uwcsea.edu.sg or get in touch with us at foundation@uwcsea.edu.sg.
One North May/June 2012

By Susan Edwards and Anthony Skillicorn
Heads of Global Concerns, UWCSEA

When the College announced the launch of the iLearn initiative, part of which would equip students in Grade 6 and above with a brand new MacBook Pro as part of their standard equipment, there was more than a wave of excitement amongst our learning community. Arguably, the students were the most excited as they received their new laptop computers—and so they should be. They are highly motivated and engaged, and they have access to an excellent holistic education underpinned by the unique UWC mission, ethos and values. This mission encourages our UWCSEA community to engage with our local and global community and to create a more sustainable world.

What then of the digital divide? Doesn’t a privileged programme such as the iLearn initiative drive a greater wedge between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have-nots’? The UWCSEA Global Concerns programme is unique in its scale of engagement with non-profit organisations, and is the platform by which UWCSEA manages its ‘global service.’ Having worked closely with non-government organisations for well over 20 years, it is little wonder that as the Heads of Global Concern, we felt more than a little uncomfortable about our position of privilege as we were handed our new laptops. With this privilege comes responsibility, and we saw the opportunity to link two of former World Bank economist Jean-François Rischard’s 20 most pressing issues facing the global community: ‘Education for All’ and the ‘Digital Divide.’ These two issues appear in his list under the sub-heading of ‘Sharing our Humanity: Issues requiring Global Commitment’ in his book High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them, which was published in 2003.

Back to our new MacBook Pro computers. We realised that the students and staff would need to protect their new hardware with hard-covers, soft-covers and keyboard protectors. The world of laptop accessories was new terrain, but it was clear that the retail prices of these items were very high. We wondered if we could source accessories ourselves and put any profit to providing children in Cambodia with the chance to learn in safe and secure classrooms; classrooms large enough to fit the 40 or more children in each class; classrooms built with proper materials so they would not crumble and collapse. So, it became our aim to source the laptop accessories and build a school in Cambodia.

This ambition has become a reality. Preah Srey Sara Pech school, with a catchment of seven village areas, currently has 14 teachers and educates 492 students, of which 213 are girls. Many more children are waiting for the chance to attend. Unfortunately, there was no space in the old school, and the building had become unsafe for the children; then the recent floods destroyed the old school completely. UWCSEA will now be able to fund the construction of a new school for this extended community. The new school, of six rooms, one well and a toilet block, will allow 640 students to attend classes. Grade 8 students from UWCSEA Dover Campus visited the school in March to see it in full operation.

We are proud and privileged to work at UWCSEA.
In Memoriam

Jim Heal
Former Physics Teacher
(UWCSEA 1987–2005)

Jim’s legacy at UWCSEA
Jim Heal taught at UWCSEA for 18 years, from the mid-’80s until 2005, when he left due to the onset and progression of Motor Neurone Disease. In December 2011, Jim’s wife Sue and daughter Jo wanted to do something special to honour him and his love of teaching and the environment, so they chose two indigenous trees and arranged for them to be planted—one at the Dover Campus where Jim had taught and which was so much a part of his life, and one as part of the tree planting campaign at the East Campus.

Matron Ho Siew Han
UWCSEA 1973–2002

Matron Ho was a dayparent/ supervisor of the Middle School Boarding Residence, originally called Junior House, from 1973 to 2002. She came to UWCSEA as a sister (nurse) in the medical clinic before moving to her position in the residence. She was well loved by so many of her young charges and will be well remembered.

Matron Ho came back to UWCSEA in 2009 to attend the annual Reunion weekend.

She passed away in January 2012 but she will be remembered fondly by all who she touched in her life.

“I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our beloved Matron Ho. She was a matron to me when I was a Pigot girl. She was a no-nonsense kinda woman, fair and strict without any hesitation, and yet when we talked to her, she could be funny, warm and compassionate. Rest in peace Matron Ho, we love you and we will miss you!”
Grace T

“Matron Ho was strict but fair and we always remember her with fondness. In fact, it took Jane Kok and I 30 years (at the 2009 reunion) before we decided to confess to her about our escapade hiding up the nangka tree outside Maley House. We were almost caught helping ourselves to the fruit in the middle of the night when a car came by. I think she was somewhat amused that we got our just punishment when we were showered with hundreds of white fruit worms from the tree!”
Grace Yeoh...

Staff who knew Jim and his family gathered to join in the planting and dedication. A plaque has been placed at the foot of each tree. Sue says that Jim was really touched and pleased that his trees will be providing shade and environmental health for years into the future.

Jim passed away in February 2012, surrounded by his loving family, but his legacy will live on at UWCSEA through his teaching, his trees and the fond memories of his students and colleagues.

A relative of Jim’s, Dan Georgescu is competing in a half-ironman triathlon, 17 June, to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease in memory of Jim. For more information, please visit the news section of the alumni website.

“Mr Heal was a fantastic teacher and one that even after 12 years I still remember very fondly. He was dedicated to his profession and to his students, and that shone through on a daily basis in physics classes.”
Adam Ebell

“Attending UWCSEA was a privileged time for me, and it was made all the better by teachers like Mr Heal. He had nothing but enthusiasm for what he taught, and I remember that he had all the time in the world even for an average student like me … which pushed me to want to be better.”
Kiron Singh-Chahel

“Mr Heal will always be one of my heroes.”
Jose Bernardo
Current students help out at former student Marie Cheong’s wedding to raise awareness and funds for their Global Concern

Saturday, 22 October 2011, former UWCSEA student Marie Cheong (Class of 2002) was married to Andrew Eddy at St Ignatius Church in Singapore.

Serving at the reception after the wedding ceremony was a group of current Grade 12 students, all members of the Christina Nobel Children’s Foundation (CNCF) Global Concern (GC), which is supervised by the mother of the bride, teacher Sandra Binny. They took time out from their mid-term break to be a part of the celebration and with the family’s encouragement, to use the opportunity to raise awareness and funds for the CNCF Children’s Christmas Appeal. They were Issy Hodgkiss, Leila Hopwood, Aliya Khan, Laura Milanez, Helena Waltermann and Uttara Malhotra.

The wedding guest list included a number of teachers and former UWCSEA students, some of whom had flown into Singapore from abroad for the occasion. They included teachers Karen and Shane Morris, Lindsey Oliver, Julie Martens and Mark O’Dea, and former students Elaine Hekman, Class of 1982; Kaiesh Vohra, Tim Wetton and Zal Dastur of the Class of 2001; James Tumber, Iain Clayton, Emma Mills and Qixian (Cheesy) Yang of the Class of 2002; Michelle Cheong, Class of 2006; Matthew Cheong, Class of 2009; Joseph Hudson and Martin Leslie of the Class of 2010; and Mark Cheong, Ross Morris, Diego Garcia Luna and Declan Martens of the Class of 2011.

Marie and Andrew met at McGill University in Montreal, Canada and currently live in the UK.

All the best to Marie and Andrew for many happy years together!

If you are interested in finding out more about CNCF please visit the website at www.cncf.org/en/home/index.php

More alumni weddings

Middle School sweethearts marry after reconnecting 35 years later

Guy Rittger, UWCSEA Class of 1979 and Kathy Hanson, also UWCSEA Class of 1979, became husband and wife, 11 February 2012. Guy and Kathy had dated during the single year that Guy had attended UWCSEA, August 1975 through June 1976, but their lives took different paths after that point until they were re-united 35 years later, in March 2011. Kathy has two daughters, Alex, 14 and Nikki, 12. Guy, Kathy, Alex and Nikki are now living in Southbury, Connecticut, USA with their two dogs, Otto and Madison. Guy works for Hewlett Packard and Kathy works for Clockwork Learning.

Guy was featured in an article as well as on the cover of the seventh issue of One°North, The Alumni Magazine of UWC South East Asia, regarding his passion for competition sailing. Archived issues of the alumni magazine can be viewed at the UWCSEA alumni website under Publications.

Congratulations to Karin (Brown) Kidd (Class of 1978) on her wedding

Karin Brown and David Kidd met in Oxford through Karin’s boss, 15 years ago! They were friends for many years before discovering a few similarities in their backgrounds. They were both born in the same county of Wiltshire in the UK and their fathers were both ex-military and had been stationed in the same place in Johore, Malaysia just a few years apart, back in the 1960s.

The wedding and reception took place in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, UK on Friday, 30 December 2011. Karin’s parents flew in from California, USA and her daughter Kara, travelled from Bangkok, Thailand to attend the ceremony and celebration. Among the guests were former UWCSEA classmate and friend Tracy Morgan and her husband John.
Reunion 2012!

**Fifth Annual Reunion**
celebrating the 40, 30, 25, 20 and 10 year classes

24–26 August 2012

The Classes of 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002 are invited to celebrate in Singapore in August 2012. Any other alumni who wish to join the reunion are welcome as well.

As in previous years, all five classes are invited to a Friday evening cocktail reception and Asian-themed buffet dinner party, this year at the Intercontinental Hotel, to kick off the weekend. Saturday events are organised and celebrated with your own year group and a Sunday barbecue on the UWCSEA campus brings everyone back together to revisit your memories and make your plans to keep in touch with old and new connections.

Reunion 2013!

**Sixth Annual Reunion**
celebrating the 40, 30, 25, 20 and 10 year classes.

23–25 August 2013

The classes of 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 2003 are invited to celebrate in Singapore in August 2013. If you wish to celebrate your 35th or 25th year (1978 or 1988) please just let us know. Any other alumni who wish to join the reunion weekend are welcome as well.

Registration is via the UWCSEA alumni website.

Check the alumni website (http://alumni.uwcsea.edu.sg) for more details, to view the updated attendee list and/or to register. You may also contact the alumni office at reunion@uwcsea.edu.sg for more information. We hope to see you here!

If you are not registered on the UWCSEA alumni website http://alumni.uwcsea.edu.sg with an up-to-date email address and location, please send us that information by email to alumni@uwcsea.edu.sg so that we can keep you up to date about alumni get-togethers in your location. Don’t miss out!