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 the United World College of 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
The UWCSEA 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, 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, 20 and 10 year anniversary classes will be held each August in Singapore and other alumni are welcome. Other 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 newsletter is published five times during the academic year, containing College news and reports of events and activities, as well as a brief alumni section.

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 section 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 opportunities for alumni
Check the Volunteer page of the website for short to long term volunteer work opportunities in South East 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 of the campus, we would be more than happy to show you around anytime.

Please keep in touch!
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alumni Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Letter from the Head</td>
<td>Read about UWCSEA today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Note from the Alumni office</td>
<td>Congratulations, Class of 2010!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Values in Practice (ViP)</td>
<td>David Grinsted (Class of 1987)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gap Year</td>
<td>Alex Clark (Class of 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Alumni Profile</td>
<td>Ros Wynne-Jones (Class of 1989)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Awards/Theme Week Photos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Values in Practice (ViP)</td>
<td>Lynne Quinnell Shori (Class of 1985)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Michael Taylor’s Blog (Class of 1980)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Values in Practice (ViP)</td>
<td>Heron Holloway (Class of 2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>College Events</td>
<td>An overview of recent College activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Former Teacher Profile</td>
<td>Mr Hubert May, 1976 -1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Alumni Profile</td>
<td>Frederick Jelliff (Class of 1991)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Recent Reunions</td>
<td>Photos from alumni gatherings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Sport at UWCSEA</td>
<td>Alumni return to UWCSEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Alumni Profile</td>
<td>Petra Bussecker Svoboda (Class of 1988)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Alumni Profile</td>
<td>Marschenka Towle (Class of 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>UWCSEA Foundation Update</td>
<td>East Campus wins Green Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Tristan Towers (Class of 1997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Singapore Food</td>
<td>Gula Melaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Classnotes / Staff Leavers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Upcoming Reunions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Cover photo: Grade 12 IB students surprise everyone with their transformation into characters from the film Avatar during Awards Week, April 2010. Pictured here, from left to right are Rachita Jain, Maribelle Siegfried, Sujaya Desai, Mayumi Raheem and Zara Marvi.

Cover photo by Prapti Sherchan
The academic year is fast drawing to a close and the Class of 2010 have now joined the ranks of our alumni. It has been a memorable year for all the right reasons. The sports programme has been revamped resulting in many more students of different ages being involved in competitive fixtures, as always there has been a large number of theatrical and musical productions, and the service programme moves from strength to strength. On top of this we anticipate some excellent scores when the IB results are published in July.

Following hard on the heels of an International Baccalaureate publication last year entitled “50 Excellent Extended Essays” in which five UWCSEA students featured, the most from any one school, this year the IB produced a similar CD which contained “50 Excellent Theory of Knowledge Essays.” We were delighted that three students had their ToK essays published. Both of these achievements are recognition of the quality of the education at the College and the extraordinary talents of the students and faculty.

Our work to redevelop the Dover Campus continues apace. The bus park has been completed. When not in use it will also serve as a car park and undercover play area. Importantly it now means that we will be able to keep the campus open all day. The next stage of development will be the construction of a 64-classroom block on the site between the Senior Sports Hall and the Main Hall. It is currently occupied by the gymnasium and drama studio (both of which will be replaced) and the Middle School Office. The design has many of the features incorporated into the East Campus to make it as energy efficient as possible.

The East Campus Infant School at Tampines has just been completed and will open its doors to 360 K1-G1 students this August. Construction of the remainder of the campus is on schedule. We are delighted that the Campus has been awarded Greenmark Platinum by the Singapore Building Construction Authority. The innovative features we have built into the design means that it will be the most energy efficient building in Singapore. Remarkably, all this has been achieved at no extra cost against an industry standard of 5-6% of construction costs. We anticipate that it will attract considerable interest worldwide.

The Alumni network is developing on a monthly basis. As well as the traditional reunions in London and Singapore - we have been doing them for four years now so by UWCSEA standards they must be a tradition - this year we have introduced additional reunions in New York, San Francisco and Kuala Lumpur with one more scheduled for Jakarta. We are delighted that so many are attending the reunions, some travelling considerable distances to be there. We hope that others will come to future events.

As part of their duty of care the Board requested that this year we should invite an internationally renowned educationalist, Professor Jeff Thompson, to conduct an audit of how successful we are at instilling the College values. Jeff, who is a Professor Emeritus at Bath University, former Chair of Atlantic College and a member of the UWC International Board, spent 5 days in the College attending lessons, meeting members of the community and observing activities around the campus. I will finish by quoting part of his report summary:

“The expression of the College values through the “extra-classroom” programmes was clearly evident across the entire College. The commitment to living the values in practice through the wide range of organised programmes, at every level of the institution, was outstanding. Particularly impressive was the degree of collaboration that has been generated between stakeholders in the College community (students, teachers, parents, alumni, Board members, College Ambassadors and other College friends) in the strong commitment to delivering the values through the wide range of philanthropic and service activities, especially the Global Concerns programme. The College is unique, in the experience of the Auditor, in relation to the range, extent and high quality of its extra-curricular provision and its achievements, particularly in the areas of service and philanthropy.”

I do genuinely believe we all have much to be proud of as this has been built up over many years.

Julian Whiteley
Another academic year ends ...

Another academic year comes to an end with another group of more than 300 current IB students becoming alumni as of graduation day, 25 May, 2010. This year for the first time, there were three graduating students who had attended UWCSEA from Grade 1 through Grade 12, since the College opened its Infant School in 1998/99; Tom Shepherd, Ayaka Koike and Chris Underwood.

The guest speaker at this year’s graduation was Dr Kirsten Scott, a former student from the Class of 2001 who recently completed her medical degree at King’s College in London and is a trustee and founding member of Zimbabwe Health Training Support, a UK-based organisation which supports health care provision and training in her home country of Zimbabwe. In her inspiring speech Kirsten shared a few of the enduring life lessons that she took from her time at UWCSEA which have continued to influence her life since.

Congratulations to the entire graduating class of 2010!

My own son has graduated this year and although I will no longer be a UWCSEA parent, I will always be the parent of alumni just as my children will always be alumni. And, just as alumni are invited to stay in touch with the alumni office and join the UWCSEA alumni website, parents of alumni are also invited to stay in touch and are more than welcome to register on the Friends of UWCSEA website, located at http://friends.uwcsea.edu.sg.

The Grade 12 themed costume days which have become a tradition over the past several years took place as usual just prior to the end of classes in April, but this year they included an additional, surprise ‘Avatar Day.’ See the cover photo! The entire class year of more than 300 students met on the Ayer Rajah pitch at morning break time, painted themselves blue and returned to class! Photos of some of this year’s costumes can be enjoyed on the Awards page.

There have been a number of alumni reunions and get-togethers this year. Prapti, Dave and I have enjoyed seeing and meeting so many alumni at these events and look forward to many more in the near future. Details are always posted in the event calendar of the website prior to events and photos are posted afterwards. We will continue to keep everyone informed as much as possible and continue to add more locations for future reunions and get-togethers.

This sixth issue of the magazine has a larger number of profiles and articles written by and about former students from the past four decades than any of the previous issues. Thanks for sending us your suggestions. I hope you will enjoy reading about these interesting fellow alumni as much as we have.

Take care. Please stay in touch.

Best regards,

Brenda
Brenda Whately
Director of Alumni Relations
brenda@uwcsea.edu.sg

Congratulations,
Class of 2010!!

On Tuesday 25 May 2010 we recognised and celebrated the achievements of the class of 2010 as three hundred and two students of 50 different nationalities graduated from UWCSEA. With well over 1,000 guests at the ceremony, there was a wonderful feeling of community celebration. Please see the December 2010 OneNorth for photos of the graduation ceremony and celebration.
When I first arrived in Cambodia in early January, I decided that I should keep a journal. I was being bombarded with sights, smells, tastes and experiences that were so far out of the ordinary for me that I knew, if I didn’t write them down, I would one day look back and wonder if they had ever happened at all or were just figments of my imagination.

It was two or three years ago that the idea of going somewhere exotic and becoming a volunteer first entered my mind. I had finished my paramedic training some years previously and I was sure that my skills and experience would make me vastly appealing to any volunteer organisation. Wrong! Most of the NGOs that I contacted wanted nothing to do with paramedics. I did however find three that would consider my application. One of these was MaD (Making a Difference) for Good in Siem Reap, Cambodia. I emailed a few questions and received a reply almost immediately from Phil Starling, one of the MaD founders. He told me, amongst other things, that if I was trying to change the world then I should perhaps consider going elsewhere, but if I wanted to help improve the lives of a few poor Cambodians, mainly children, then MaD was the place to be.

Via their website I found out that Phil, his wife Conchetta, their daughter Sofi, and a handful of local Cambodian staff run several programmes including but not limited to, drilling and maintaining water pumps, teaching English and fostering eight Cambodian children. A fourth programme, Medical Assistance Direct, runs a mobile clinic that travels to schools and villages providing basic health care and advice. The clinic itself is a modified tuk-tuk pulled by a quad bike which allows it to go virtually anywhere, even in the rainy season, providing health checks for school children and village communities. These often include de-worming, treating minor wounds, dealing with the normal childhood and adult illnesses, and occasionally referring people on to the hospital in Siem Reap. I decided that this was enough information for me. I wanted in! So I bought my ticket, paid my fees, arranged and received a reply almost immediately from Phil Starling, one of the MaD founders. He told me, amongst other things, that if I was trying to change the world then I should perhaps consider going elsewhere, but if I wanted to help improve the lives of a few poor Cambodians, mainly children, then MaD was the place to be.

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On arrival at Siem Reap International Airport, I was met by Palynath, the Cambodian Director of MaD who gave me a running commentary as our tuk-tuk sped through the narrow, crowded streets of Siem Reap and out towards Bakong. Bakong district is almost due East of Siem Reap and home to the Bakong Wat, one of the first temples to be built in the Angkor Kingdom, some 1,200 years ago. My new home, the MaD House, was only 2km away from Bakong Wat. To my surprise, when I arrived at the ‘MaD’ House and asked to meet the rest of the medical volunteers, I was informed that I was the only one. The medical program in its entirety was to be handed over to me! Excitement and dread flooded through me in roughly equal measures. Would I be up to the task? What exactly was the task again?

“\textit{To my surprise, when I arrived at the ‘MaD’ House and asked to meet the rest of the medical volunteers, I was informed that I was the only one!}”

Phil told me to be prepared to deal with anything and everything (and he gave me several pretty graphic examples at this point), but most of all, to have fun! I had arrived on a Saturday morning, spent the weekend organising the drugs box and medical kits, unpacking and storing the various donated medical supplies that I had brought with me from Australia and Singapore, furiously researching medications and diseases and taking copious pages of scribbled notes.

We started my volunteer experience by holding a clinic for the local people under someone’s house. There was no one there when we showed up, but word spread quickly and within ten minutes we had a wooden table for our equipment, three or four plastic stools to sit on, and it seemed, a cast of thousands. In truth I would say we saw between 80 and 100 people that day with ailments ranging from the infected toe to arthritis, febrile babies, mild dehydration, tooth aches and a multitude...
of old women with muscle and joint pain from working in the padi fields. I ended the clinic that afternoon by giving neck and shoulder massages to three such toothless old ladies, who laughed and giggled like little girls when I told them they should go home and ask their husbands to do the same.

Dinner that night, and pretty much every night since, was fantastic local food eaten together around a long wooden dining table, sometimes by candlelight during the regular power outages, swapping stories about how everyone’s day had gone and what our plans were for the next. I had only been in Cambodia for a couple of days and already I felt like one of the family.

The next day was my first day of school, so to speak. The school was about a half hour drive from the house. Going further away from Siem Reap is like going further back in time. Houses have no toilets, cooking is done outside over an open fire, the houses themselves are all wood with thatched roofs, and the roads are narrow, dirt tracks. The school was a single story concrete bungalow, divided into three classrooms. The children sat on wooden benches at long wooden tables and wrote on wooden slates, with no books. When we arrived, classes were in full swing but quickly disintegrated into chaos. Veng had to return to the MaD house to exchange our normal tuk-tuk for the quad tuk-tuk, so for the first hour I was on my own. I was working hard to understand and be understood and my efforts seemed to give one of the locals the confidence to come forward and try out his English by acting as my interpreter. The students were a bit shy at first, so I gave a couple of teachers a blood pressure check and shone a torch in their eyes, and then the flood gates opened. Child after child all had pretty much the same symptoms - coughs, runny noses and headaches with a few stomach aches thrown in for good measure. And then, out of the crowd, a young boy was pushed towards me by his mother, eyes downcast and looking like he would rather be just about anywhere else. It became apparent through the gesturing and roughly translated description from the mother that there was something wrong inside this young boy’s dirty blue school shorts and she expected me to do something about it. Before I could even begin to suggest that perhaps we should go inside and find somewhere more private to conduct an examination, she was pulling down his pants and I was face to face with his problem. I thought the best thing to do, seeing as the cat was already out of the bag so to speak, would be to not make a fuss and just quickly get on with the examination. Thankfully I had come across the relatively simple problem before and so was aware of what to do about it.

“But if I can help one person a day by cleaning a wound and preventing an infection, or teaching children to wash their hands before eating, or just showing some kindness to someone who has had a hard life, then maybe I really am making a difference.”

Other days however, I found myself up against things that I had no idea about. One such day I came across three children at one school with what I thought were cataracts. I considered it unusual that I should find three in one school, on
the same day. Besides, old people get cataracts, right? So I “googled” the best description that I could and I came across a condition known as cloudy cornea or corneal opacity. What a wonderful thing is the internet! One of the potential causes is a deficiency in vitamin A so we made a trip to the local pharmacy and stocked up on vitamin A capsules.

Another day, as we didn’t have many supplies to carry along, Veng and I set off by motorbike to check on two patients we’d seen the week before. It was a bone jarring ride across slippery expanses of sand and rock hard stretches of packed, dry earth with pot holes big enough to swallow up cows; although the cows here may be relatively small, these were still big pot holes! I am pretty sure that that day was the first time in my life that I have been grateful for sweat, as it helped to suction-cup my backside to the seat. My biggest worry of course, was that if my bottom did leave the seat, I would have no control over where it came down - a dry rice field, the rock hard berm between said fields or on Veng’s shoulders like some freaky circus act. So I hung on with hands, arms and shoulders like steel and a spine like par-cooked spaghetti, a vacant expression on my face and music playing in my head. We arrived after what seemed like hours but was only about 20 minutes. After prising my fingers off the handholds, and with more than a slight tremor, I removed one set of stitches and appraised one nicely healing facial boil. Then it was back on the bike for the return trip...

A diary excerpt from another day shows how different one day can be from the next: “I saw a little boy with a broken collar bone today. Apparently he had broken it a week or so ago. The bones had started to knit so there was no free movement and obvious deformation. I put his arm in a sling and gave him some ibuprofen. At the same time, I saw a mother who had brought her little boy to see me because he had a cold, but it was pretty obvious to me that this was no ordinary little boy. He had cerebral palsy and his mother was just starting to see, or maybe to admit that he wasn’t doing all the things that the other children were doing. She was very caring and protective and I hope that some miracle happens and they both have very happy lives.” That’s the safety valve I have - I can walk away from things like that and just think happy thoughts until the bad feeling goes away. There have also been so many people that I have been able to help, however, if only in a small way, and I have felt a great deal of appreciation from the people here.

“ I certainly don’t know what the answer is but I do know that it involves people like Phil Starling and organisations like MaD…”

At home people take health care for granted. We have come to expect only the best, anywhere and anytime we need it. But for the majority of Cambodians there is very little in the way of health care available to them, and what there is, is expensive, hard to access and often ineffective. There is an enormous amount of money coming into Cambodia in the form of foreign aid and donations, but very little of it makes its way to the ordinary people. In so many ways Cambodia is a land of extremes: shopping malls and ancient temples, wealthy tourists and rice farmers, fancy hotels and thatch huts, rich people and poor people. To the casual visitor, Cambodians come across as quiet, smiling, contented people, despite the hardships they face. In my opinion they are simply too polite to voice the discontent they must feel. I certainly don’t know what the answer is, but I do know that it involves people like Phil Starling and organisations like MaD, willing to start at the bottom and help people one at a time, teaching the children how to do it for themselves along the way. I understand what Phil meant when he said that I wouldn’t be able to change the world by coming here. But if I can help one person a day by cleaning a wound and preventing an infection, or teaching children to wash their hands before eating, or just showing some kindness to someone who has had a hard life, then maybe I really am making a difference.

David and Phil are launching the donate US$1-a-day appeal to support MaD for Good! Cambodia. For more information about MaD for Good! please visit the website at www.madcambodia.org and/or www.ammado.com/donate?45940.

Please send your ViP suggestions for the next edition of OneºNorth, to alumnimagazine@uwcsea.edu.sg.
I’m writing this from amongst the Himalayas. It’s a striking statement to make, calling up images of lone travelers caught in blizzards, of grizzled sherpa guides, and of being forced to eat your own boots. Which is why when I tell you that I’m actually sipping masala tea in a lazily aromatic café, you may feel a little miffed; certainly surprised. I can happily claim to be amongst the Himalayas because I’m in Nepal, and here, wherever you go, you are surrounded by the world’s most magnificent peaks.

For a long time I had felt that just coming to Pokhara, Nepal, was a mountain in itself - a struggle of months spent pulling money together, preparing provisions and consoling worried parents. A gap year, though, is a rough introduction to independence and it’s mostly taught me that there’s always another peak. The crest of one struggle is the perfect viewpoint for the foothills of the next, and best of all, when you attempt the climb, it’s your decision, your success and failure, and your life. Right now the incline I am working on is teaching three classes of thirty kids each how to speak English at a local secondary school. Underprivileged and often given no more than a glimpse of a chance, the journey these students have taken me on has been utterly incredible. It’s been filled with pitfalls – competing with a lifetime of inefficient rote-learning, and an English syllabus at times frustratingly obtuse and other times ludicrous. But the rewards have been immense. There is no equivalent to watching a child as quiet as a mouse and twice as shy realise that they can volunteer to read and no-one will laugh or tell them they’re wrong. Every day that I have walked into that school I have laughed, cried, whispered and shouted, been driven to ecstasy and rage in equal parts - and greeted with a warmth that comes from my eager students as much as it does my own pleasure in being able to help. It makes me feel that people are wrong to say a gap year lets you “find yourself”. It doesn’t. It lets you make an even better “yourself”. I could not imagine a finer place to do all this either. The Nepalese people, without exception, are shamelessly friendly and giving, and their country is shockingly beautiful. On every street corner you are greeted with wide grins in copper cheeks, and two new friends eager to test their English.

Pokhara really is a city built around people rather than buildings. With a million things to do, from trekking to paragliding to a row-boat on the lake, it is remarkable how untouched it is by the usual hassle of a tourist haven. Nowhere else have I been where the people approaching you on the street are more likely to be offering you tea in their sitting room than trying to force a sale of knick-knacks. The best part is feeling as if Pokhara is my discovery. That’s the real importance, the real potency of a gap year, feeling as if everything you do you make your own. The ability to make your own decisions is an enthralling experience, and it leaves you with a rush of power and responsibility that only fuels the fire. More and more I am finding that I know exactly what I want to do, and doing it exactly when I want – and it’s a mystery to me how I will have time for everything on that list!

University is another peak to struggle up soon enough, though it’s made much easier by being able to rest and take my bearings first. My gap year feels like a sherpa guide for life; pointing me in the right direction to decide what I actually want to do and how I actually want to live - how to look after myself. This knowledge, which will stay with me, is what consoles me when I know how soon I have to leave. Little else would, save taking every single one of my English students with me.

Alex’s Theory of Knowledge essay was one of those chosen this year to be published by the International Baccalaureate Organisation. Alex will be heading to the University of Edinburgh in Autumn 2010.
After more than 15 years as a staff correspondent, Ros Wynne-Jones is now a freelance journalist and is working on her second novel, set in North Wales where her family originates from. She is currently travelling much less as she is expecting her first child in late June.

Ros has an English Language and Literature degree from Wadham College, Oxford University. She became interested in a career in journalism through her father, a journalist, and her mother who she says passed on to her a love of books. She says, “Journalism seemed a good way to write but also put into practice all the idealism my time at UWCSEA had left me with.” She adds, “I have always been interested in trying to give a voice to people who don’t have one – whether that’s kids growing up in poverty in the UK, women with HIV/AIDS in Africa, civilians trapped in wars, or families trying to exist in slums.” Ros wrote her first book, Something Is Going to Fall Like Rain, after spending time in South Sudan in the late nineties, covering the long-running civil war and running a newspaper appeal for two charities, Unicef and War Child, to raise money for the almost two and a half million people facing severe famine there at that time. Afterwards, Ros went on to work in many different countries around the world, but that whole experience stayed with her. She says, “I fell in love with the people, the country, and by extension, the continent.”

Her book is the story of a naïve British aidworker who goes out to South Sudan for a short stint but becomes trapped behind the frontlines of the civil war in a fictional Dinka village called Adek. She hopes that as readers come to care for the village and its inhabitants, they will also come to care more about Sudan.

Ros’ fondest memories of UWCSEA include, “Hanging out at the boarding house, debating issues on the student council, lunch at the HDBs, and having a lot of fun making a dreadful film in our final year about travelling, called Indiana Wynne-Jones and the Temple of Doom.”

Ros lives with her partner in South London, just around the corner from her sister Claire Wynne-Jones, who was two years below her at UWCSEA and who is now married and working as a Speech and Language therapist. Both Ros and Claire can be contacted through the alumni site.

by Ros Wynne-Jones

Twelve years ago, reporting on the war and worsening famine in Southern Sudan, I met a boy I’ll call Bol. I wish I could remember his actual name, but the notebooks I carried are lost, and I met so many Bols over the weeks and months I was in Sudan. The Government of Sudan was conducting bombing raids that day up in the skies above the stick-and-mud village I was staying in, so we were confined to the aidworkers’ camp. Bol was 15 years old and one of the camp attendants. I started talking to him through an interpreter partly through curiosity and partly as a way to kill time and the most astonishing story began to unfold; how his village had been burned by the Arab militias, the Muhalreel; how he had walked for months through the desert, burying many of his family – his mother and sisters – on the way; how he had ended up alone, emaciated, just walking, a boy without food, friends or family. Here he was, fit and well, and laughing. A gawky teenager learning English, determined to go abroad to be educated and to come back to lead his country in the future.

I often wonder what happened to Bol. His story stayed with me for years after - not because it was the most shocking story I’d ever heard, but because it was so unremarkable in South Sudan. I thought then that if Bol had been born in the UK Steven Spielberg would have made the movie of his life. But in Sudan it was just an average story; the experience of hundreds of thousands of people.

“The months I spent in South Sudan also stayed with me; a war that had cost two million lives and yet one that no-one back in England seemed to have heard of. I wrote often about Sudan in newspaper reports, but I never really felt I was doing the story justice. There never seemed to be enough words or enough space to really tell what was happening there. In the end, a version of Bol’s story came to me in the form of a novel I first started writing in 2001. It ended up as Something Is Going To Fall Like Rain, recently published in the UK. The book tells the story of a young, naïve British aidworker who goes to Sudan to try and help, and becomes trapped in a village close to the frontlines for months on end. It looks at the uneasy, often fraught relationships between the communities who live through wars and disasters, and the people that try to help them. It became more than just Bol’s story but he inspired it.”

I have been haunted along the way by some terrible things, but also had the privilege of seeing the human spirit triumph in extraordinary circumstances.”
I've been a reporter for 15 years now, since 1995, my first proper job after university, and for a few years of that time I reported from war zones from Kosovo to East Timor, Rwanda to Sudan and countries from Mozambique to Argentina, South Africa to Armenia. Without having studied at UWCSEA I doubt I would have chosen such far-flung work as an occupation. I always wanted to write, but my curiosity about the world completely opened up in the two years I was in Singapore.

I'd spent my whole life in England before my dad got a job training Straits Times journalists in 1987. My sister, Claire, and I had barely any idea where Singapore was. I had hated school for years, but UWC was different. Meeting all the students from different countries – kids from Pakistan, Canada, Guatemala, Italy, Korea, Germany, USA, totally opened my eyes. In the summer between sixth and seventh year, three friends and I travelled across China together in what was called Hard Seat Class, for pennies, visiting Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and the Great Wall. I remember staring out of the train window with a pen in my hand at the passing paddy fields and great expanses of rapeseed fields and thinking this what I want to do for the rest of my life. We went on school field trips to Malaysia and Indonesia, places I could only have imagined in previous years. But at least as important as the travelling were the books that we read. In History we learned about the history of China, in geography about logging in Indonesia, in Biology we learned about the travels of Charles Darwin. Mrs See, our English teacher, introduced me to a novel called Things Fall Apart, by a man she said was the godfather of African literature. That book was the first time I 'visited' Africa. Lots and lots of other African books followed, and at university I found myself more and more interested in specialising in post-colonial literature.

When school finished I took a year off before university and explored further, starting in Australia and backpacking across South East Asia. So by the time I left university, I knew exactly what I wanted to do – some kind of writing that would allow me to travel.

I started as a trainee on the Daily Mirror, then Sunday Mirror, and then got my first feature-writing job on the Independent on Sunday where the editor regularly sent me to Northern Ireland. From there, the world began to open up. In the last decade I have been lucky enough to travel all over Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and sometimes back to Asia too. Often the places I have been to, aren't high on anyone's list for visiting. But then slums, famines, floods, conflicts all have their amazing moments. I have been haunted along the way by some terrible things, but also had the privilege of seeing the human spirit triumph in extraordinary circumstances.

"Without having studied at UWCSEA I doubt I would have chosen such far-flung work as an occupation."

I still love the immediacy of journalism and getting things on to the page but I think sometimes fiction can take people deeper into a story. For me one of the most important things about the novel I wrote was that it fulfilled the pledge I made to that boy in the Sudanese village all those years ago. He asked me to promise that I would tell people in the wider world what was happening in South Sudan.

Something Is Going To Fall Like Rain is published by Reportage Press. For further information please visit: http://www.roswynnejones.com/
Awards Day

20 April 2010

Alumni

Outstanding volunteer work in the Gap Year Programme
Outstanding volunteer work in the Gap Year Programme

Grade 12

EARCOS Global Citizenship Award
Academic Attainment Award Grade 12
Academic Attainment Award Grade 12
English Award
Asian Languages Award - Chinese
Asian Languages Award - Indonesian
Asian Languages Award - Korean A1
European Languages Award - French
European Languages Award - German
European Languages Award - Spanish
Bilingual School-Supported Award A1
Bilingual English Award A2
Bilingual English Award B

Biology Award
The Shaun Hanley Award for Chemistry
Physics Award
Mathematics Award
Computer Science and Information Technology Award
Design & Technology Award
Environmental Systems and Societies Award
Science, Technology and Society Award
Sports Science Award

Geography Award
History Award

Environmental Systems and Societies Award

Psychology Award

Philosophy Award

Theory of Knowledge Award

David Watson Prize for Performing Arts

Outstanding Technical Support for the Performing Arts

Diana Greenwood Prize for Senior Drama

Lance Huet Art Prize Grade 12

Gavin Waddell Art Prize Grade 12

Robert Lutton Creative Writing Prize (Upper School)

Publications Prize - Money Matters

Publications Prize - Money Matters

Brass Player of the Year Award

Woodwind Player of the Year Award

Guitarist of the Year Award

Outstanding Performance and Commitment to College Music

Public Speaking Award

Student Initiative Award Senior School

Student Initiative Award Senior School

Outstanding Service Award Grade 12

Outstanding Service Award Grade 12

Outstanding Service Award Grade 12

Contribution to Senior School Boarding Life

Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 12

Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 12

Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 12

Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 12

Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 12
Yuri Hiyayama
Yu Jie Wu
Tim Tobias Seeger
Rufus Raghunath
Frances Rose Mayo
Sanaya Khaneja
Seung Hyun Suh
Tim Tobias Seeger
Chihiro Isozaki
Lodewijk Vriens
Nikhil Sambamurthy
Gabriella Santosa
Anna Margaret Bradshaw
Alexis Durand
Jimmy Chun Ming Wu
Wesley Jyh-Wei Fuh
Dipro Bhowmik

Srishti Bhattacharya
Cristabelle Ormiston
Georgia Patricia Small
Samuel Simmonds
Yuka Shimizu
Kai Yasui
Jonathan Chapman
Hugo Lamy
Laura Ann Elliott
Danielle Iserlis
Yashvi Sheth
Dodla Silpa Reddy

Min Sun Cha
Nayana Jain
Rebecca Zijderveld
Jae Ryoung Koo
Anisa Kureishi
Krisna Ferrin

Grade 11
Academic Attainment Award Grade 11
European Languages Award - Dutch
Publications Prize - Editor of Element
Photographer of the Year Award
Film Studies Award
Senior Pianist of the Year Award
Strings Player of the Year Award
Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 11
Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 11
Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 11
Outstanding Service Award Grade 11
Contribution to NYAA
Environmental Award - LEAF

Grade 10
Academic Attainment Grade 10 & Mark Ironside Prize
Mick McManus Prize for Upper School Drama
Ann Evans Prize for Upper School Art
Mary Kirwan Award for Drawing Grade 10
Percussionist of the Year Award
Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 10
Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 10
Outstanding Service Award Grade 10
Contribution to Upper School Boarding Life

Grade 9
Academic Attainment Award Grade 9
Outstanding Contribution Award Grade 9
Outstanding Service Award Grade 9
Lynne came to Singapore in 1979 with her father, who worked in the petroleum industry at that time. She attended UWCSEA until 1983, leaving after Year 5 (Grade 10) to return to Australia where she went on to pursue an honours degree in Economics followed by a Masters degree in Applied Finance and has worked in the field of banking and finance since. Lynne says of her time at UWCSEA, “I have very strong memories of many, many teachers, including Dr Wong, who scared me but also instilled in me a love of the simplicity of numbers that has guided me in my career choices, Mr Rice, whose classes showed me beauty in the written word, Mr Agerbak who introduced the world of Petit Nicolas and made laughter a part of each class. A lasting gift from my time at UWCSEA was the learning that there is no one single way or single viewpoint on anything. Today, this means when I encounter new or different ways - of seeing, doing, thinking - I believe I start from a position of openness and my life is so much more the richer and colourful for the experience.”

In 2006 Lynne, with her partner Ruud, took time off to reconnect with her Melanesian family roots on a remote island group in Papua New Guinea which has since lead to the founding of the not-for-profit group Friends Of Rambutso (FOR) which aims to improve the quality of life for the 4,500 villagers of her island birthplace, Rambutso, in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. While continuing to live and work in Sydney, Lynne splits some of her free time between fundraising for her NGO and travelling to Rambutso to visit her new-found family and to introduce some of the life-saving programs and community improvements which her NGO has made possible. These include the provision of clean drinking water, rechargeable batteries, books, solar lighting, safe free-diving lessons, etc.

Brenda Whately

Born on a remote island, Lynne Shori found herself caught between two worlds. After unraveling the mystery of her missing family, she set about reconciling her past and future.

“I was about three months old when my father found out I existed. There were only two white men on the island: my father and a priest. My father was sitting on his veranda one evening when the priest came up to him and said, ‘John, there’s a white baby in the village, and it’s not mine.” Lynne Shori laughs as she recalls what is a familiar tale from her childhood. Yet the events that followed remained a secret for 20 years of her life.

Shori, an investor relations manager who lives in Lilyfield in Sydney’s inner west, was born in 1966 on Rambutso, a remote island in the Bismarck Archipelago, north-east of mainland Papua New Guinea (PNG). Her mother was a local named Niakop Epili and her father, John Quinnell was a Sydney teacher who taught children on the island.

Shori was raised by Quinnell and spent her childhood between PNG, Singapore and Australia. She grew up with the belief her mother had died during childbirth, but was lucky to have other mother figures in her life. “My dad remarried, so I had a step-
mother, and my grandma and two aunts were also involved in bringing me up,” says Shori. Although she knew the subject of her mother was painful for her father, she desperately sought more information.

“I don’t know why, but when I was 20 I decided to ask my paternal grandmother, ‘Did my mother really die in childbirth?’” says Shori. “She said, ‘Lynne, who told you that?’” Although it wasn’t known at that time if her mother was still alive, the truth about Shori’s past started to emerge.

When Quinnell discovered he had a daughter, he decided he would try to adopt her, as he felt he could provide her with a better life. Her mother, who was only 18 at the time, agreed. “There was a village court hearing, and there was my dad and one of his friends on one side and everybody else in the community on the other,” says Shori. Although it was agreed that he would adopt his daughter (she was exchanged for a sewing machine and a cooker), her departure was seen as a loss to the villagers. It also stirred up tension among the expatriate community.

“It was a difficult time for my father,” explains Shori. “There were a lot of Australian men in the same position who weren’t having anything to do with their children, and he was ostracized by the white community for shining a light on the situation.” Quinnell and his daughter moved from Rambutso to Lorengau, the capital of Manus Province, where the hostility became apparent. At a community Christmas party, Santa Claus handed out presents to all the children - except for Shori. “It was a small community, so the omission was not an oversight,” she says. “The incident was one of many my father faced and, unfortunately, I think my history is tied up with a period of pain for him.” Quinnell left Lorengau not long after, with his two year old daughter in tow.

In mid-2006, Shori was finally ready to reconnect with the Melanesian heritage she knew so little about. “I was heading towards 40 and suddenly I needed to know about this other half of my identity,” she says, although she had no idea where to start.

Five months later, in November, Shori’s uncle Cec Quinnell, a hospital emergency department clerk, was chatting with a patient of islander descent who, through a strange twist of fate, turned out to be Niakop’s sister Angela. From her aunt, Shori discovered her mother, then 58, was still alive. “I had the weirdest sensation. I felt like I was being pulled closer to the ground,” says Shori. “That’s the only way I can describe it - something shifted for me.”

The following year, in April 2007, Shori and her partner Ruud Dautzenberg booked their tickets to PNG. Shori wrote a letter to her mother three months before her arrival, introducing herself. The letter was addressed to the island’s heath centre and reached Niakop one week before her arrival. “Over the years, I’ve written articles for journals, presentations and media releases, but writing to introduce yourself to your mother ranks up there for difficulty,” says Shori.

The journey to Rambutso involves flying 900 kilometres north-east from Port Moresby to Manus Island, then travelling by boat for up to four hours (depending on the weather). “We landed in Manus with no idea how to get to Rambutso,” says Shori. “It didn’t matter, because as soon as I landed, people knew who I was and we were handed over from one connection to the next.” The welcome she received from the villagers was beyond her comprehension. One of their own was returning home.

“We came up from the water’s edge and a big group had formed. We were walking in the middle of it. Two women were approaching me. Then my mum stepped out from behind and grabbed me and started crying,” says Shori.

Shori discovered that along with her half-brother and -sister back in Australia, she also had seven half-siblings on Rambutso - and a very large extended family. The amazing sense of community there caught her by surprise.

“In Australia the family unit is weakening, but over there, even the extended family are incredibly tight. I’m related to 4,500 people on that island,” she says, laughing. It was a shock for Shori to discover this strange new world that could have been her own reality. “I just can’t imagine. I’m a city girl, a lousy camper and I’m scared of fish!”

Rambutso lies in an area known as the Coral Triangle, which is renowned for being home to three-quarters of the world’s coral species. The island is a tropical paradise of lush forest that runs all the way to the water’s edge. Yet life on Rambutso can be less than idyllic for its inhabitants. There are no modern conveniences - no electricity, hospital, toilets or running water. “The locals live traditionally. Life is about catching or growing the food you need,” says Shori.

Free diving for sea cucumbers for sale to Asian markets is the only source of income, which the locals use to buy ne-
cessities such as batteries and kerosene. Obesity-related disease is an issue (thanks to the islanders’ taste for coconut milk and starchy vegetables such as taro and sweet potato), as is declining fish and sea cucumber stocks.

Two weeks after Shori’s return to Sydney, her half-brother Fred died while free-diving for sea cucumber. Following his death, Shori and Dautzenberg threw themselves into creating an aid organization called Friends of Rambutso. “Harvesting sea cucumber is not sustainable and there have been more deaths since,” says Shori. “We wanted to set up something that would provide them with an alternative income.”

Friends of Rambutso aims to aid the villagers in the areas of health, education, infrastructure, education and sustainable development. “We’ve been able to engage villagers at the grassroots level,” says Shori. “I’ve been able to say, ‘I’m one of you and I’m setting up this organisation to help you help yourself.’”

She also attributes the group’s success to the legacy of her father’s time on Rambutso. “My father was a hard-nosed teacher and several of his students—one is the head of the environmental science department at the University of Papua New Guinea, another is a partner at one of the top three firms in PNG - attribute their success to him. Today we see that goodwill carried over to Friends of Rambutso,” says Shori. Several projects are under way, including the shipment to Rambutso of rechargeable batteries and a recharger (as well as the collection of the thousands of batteries discarded in the pristine waters surrounding the island), the installation of a solar panel as an alternative energy source, and the implementation of education programs about sustainable fishing, safe free-diving practices and coral reef monitoring.

Shori has returned to Rambutso several times since her initial visit in 2006, but her life remains in Sydney. “I suppose I’d call myself a fairly typical inner-city resident,” says Shori. “I enjoy good strong coffee, wine in the evening, spicy food and access to information - none of these exist on Rambutso.”

But despite her lack of requisite gardening skills or the ability to catch and kill wild pig, Shori feels her connection with the island is growing. “It feels like I’m going home,” she says. “I’m feeling more and more connected with the land and the community.”

Soon after setting up the Friends of Rambutso, Shori got word from Rambutso that two near fatal free-diving accidents had been avoided due to the safe-diving instruction given to the locals by Pro Dive Drummoyne in Sydney. It seems the Friends of Rambutso was already having an impact.

Although Shori is still coming to terms with the reasons her father kept part of her life a secret, she feels no regret for the amazing life she’s lived—which has finally lead her back to Rambutso. “We’re starting to make a story together and I feel an ownership of that story,” says Shori. “The other part - the part that happened up until I was 40 - was something that happened because of other people’s decisions. But what’s happening with Friends of Rambutso is something I’m choosing to do.”

Lynne returns to the island annually, although getting there is a two day trip and dangerous during several months of the year. She and her father are contemplating their first return trip together.

Lynne says, “We are currently raising money to build two ‘haus meris’ (Women’s houses) on the island. The haus meris will have a community kitchen so that the women can bake goods to sell at market, and an open air classroom that will be used to run sewing, handicrafts and health training during the day. At night, the classroom becomes a village study room, with solar lighting to enable students to complete their homework. (Rambutso is about one degree off the equator so it’s dark from about 5.30pm onwards and most are too poor to afford lighting for anything, let alone studies). This is very much a joint effort: Friends Of Rambutso is raising funds to purchase the hardware, but importantly, the villagers will provide the labour and skills.

For further information about Friends of Rambutso, visit www.friendsoframbutso.org and/or the Friends of Rambutso group on Facebook.

Lynne would like to reconnect with old UWCSEA friends and classmates and would be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to be in touch.
Below is the second installment of Michael (Mick) Taylor’s blog, copied from his personal profile page on the alumni site with his permission. Mick was a boarder at UWC SEA from 1975 to 1980.

“I started school at UWC SEA in third year and quickly learnt there were two categories of student: boarders and daybugs. Boarders were, of course, the superior group. It wasn’t until sixth year that I discovered the third category; scholars!

Singapore is unique amongst the UWCs as it has all three categories of students. Most have only scholars. Technically, scholars are also boarders. In fact I never thought of the scholars I knew at UWC SEA as different from the rest of us. It is only recently when I found one of those scholars, Bill Sargent, and became involved with the Australian UWC Network, that I realised that scholars were actually the third category. The process of becoming a scholar is an interesting one, involving national committees and many other steps before boarding a plane and travelling to the chosen college.

Daybugs and boarders saw the school in different ways. The boarders were always there, it was home for us, whilst for the daybugs it was just school. I doubt that they developed the same attachment to it. I spent six to seven years at the Alice Smith School in Kuala Lumpur and I was always glad when I could go home at the end of each day. UWC SEA in Singapore meant much more to me.

Daybugs were the kids who left at three every day, who were able to leave the school grounds after school hours without permission, who saw their parents every day, who didn’t have Osman the security guard and numerous teachers and house masters watching their every move. (I was convinced Mr Clarke had eyes in the back of his head in third year.) The daybugs were able to escape from the bullies every day and spend the whole weekend at home. Despite all of that, I feel that the boarders were the lucky ones. I was always able to find someone to play chess or carom or football and whilst bullying did happen, it was very rare amongst the boarders. Even the loners amongst us found someone to be lonesome with. It was hard to be bored with so many people around.

Daybugs and boarders saw the school in different ways. The boarders were always there, it was home for us, whilst for the daybugs it was just school. I doubt that they developed the same attachment to it. I spent six to seven years at the Alice Smith School in Kuala Lumpur and I was always glad when I could go home at the end of each day. UWC SEA in Singapore meant much more to me.

Scholars see the school in another way. Many of them arrive later, in sixth year, and stay for only two years. Part of the process of becoming a scholar is learning about the ideals of the United World College movement. I loved the school because it was a great place to be, not because I was told I was supposed to learn to be understanding towards other nationalities. Somehow mingling with Chinese, Malaysian, Singaporean, Indonesian, British, American, Australian, Italian, French, German and many other nationalities managed to teach me all about the UWC ideals. There were eight to a dormitory in Kerr House (third year, 1975) and at least four nationalities. In sixth year in Senior House there was an Australian, Alex Atkinson, a Malaysian, Paul Willoughby and two Brits, myself and Michael Gill in our dormitory. You had to be very stubborn to not learn understanding in those circumstances.”

1 Third year is equivalent to Grade 8.
2 Sixth year is equivalent to Grade 11.
It may not be too unusual to hear of someone following in the footsteps of one of their parents to pursue a similar career, or even a couple of members of a family choosing similar career paths, but for Heron Holloway, it is a family affair. All five members of her immediate family work in the related fields of international humanitarian work and environmental service. Her parents have worked with various NGOs and humanitarian agencies since she was a child. Her brother works currently with a Bangladeshi NGO in London UK after previously working with an NGO in South Africa, and her sister is currently working on an environmental conservation project in Fiji before entering her Master’s degree programme later this year. Heron herself currently works with the British Red Cross, and has worked on charitable projects since graduating from university in 2004.

Because of her parents’ careers which required them to move often and live in developing countries from Bangladesh to Zambia, Indonesia and East Timor, Heron and her siblings began to attend boarding schools at an early age. Heron arrived at UWCSEA in Grade 6 and stayed for 7 years. Her brother, Guy, boarded at Waterford UWC in Swaziland for a time, prior to joining her at UWCSEA. Her younger sister, Hannah, then joined them later, and for two terms in 2000, there was a Holloway sibling in each of the three boarding houses – junior, middle and senior!

Heron remembers her boarding years at UWCSEA as a ‘fantastic’ time, and says that she made friends that she will have for life. Half-term holidays were spent with her family wherever they were working at the time and summer breaks were spent back in Co. Durham which she considered home. Returning there after leaving UWCSEA, to attend Durham University, she was surprised to find that her new friends thought she was a foreign student because of her ‘international UWCSEA accent’ and she says, “It took a lot of convincing that I was actually born just up the road!” Heron graduated from Durham with a Masters degree in International Relations, after completion of a Sociology and Anthropology undergraduate degree.

Selected from a group of more than 700 applicants, Heron began working in 2004 as a graduate trainee, with a public relations (PR) agency specialising in charity and public sector campaigns. Her interest in working for charitable organisations she notes, came partly from her parents and partly from her own extensive experience of living and traveling in developing countries. She says “It’s simply in my blood.”

After nearly two years with the PR agency, Heron moved on to the British Red Cross to work on a year-long Charity of the Year project which was initiated as a partnership between the UK supermarket chain, Tesco, and the British Red Cross, to raise awareness of the ‘local’ aspect of their work. Tesco wished to be recognised as a good neighbour in the area in which it operates, and the British Red Cross wanted to raise awareness of the range of services it provides in the UK. Heron’s role was Media and Public Relations Officer, with responsibility to design and implement the public relations strategy around the partnership campaign. One of the first fundraising activities was called ‘Neighbours Week’, and Heron came up with the idea to ask Blair McDonough to participate, after seeing him at a UWCSEA reunion in February 2007, and noting his connec-

By Brenda Whately

“Simply in My Blood”

Heron Holloway
UWCSEA 1993 - 2000
Class of 2000

“The smile in her photo sums her up very well.
I remember Heron as always happy and smiling.

The other outstanding quality that I remember about her was that at the age of 11, Heron was able to quite happily and capably make the journey to Zambia all alone, three times a year to visit her parents during vacation periods. She would fly to South Africa and then wait in the Johannesburg airport sometimes for hours for her transfer onwards. This may well be where her independence and ability to take on problems comes from!”

Neil Tett, UWCSEA Boarding Houseparent 1993 to 2009
At the end of 2008, Heron found herself seconded to the International Federation of the Red Cross for a month, traveling through Zimbabwe to document the growing cholera emergency there and the Red Cross’ response to it. Because of the respect and trust given to the Red Cross organisation, Heron was able to travel freely and unhindered to all areas tackling the cholera situation, along with a videographer and photographer, giving radio interviews and creating footage used by the media afterwards. At the end of 2009 she was again seconded as a Communications Delegate for two months, but this time to the East Africa zone office where she was responsible for helping to launch the Kenyan drought appeal. Some of her other responsibilities while there included supporting communications for The General Assembly of the Red Cross which was being held in Nairobi, Kenya; the first time it had ever been held in Africa. Heron also engaged in communications gathering for the Ethiopian drought appeal and travelled to Djibouti, an area with a 70% unemployment rate. There, she reported on the micro-loans project which has been set up in the slum area, identifying the people to whom the loans would be made available and the uses to which they would be put. In addition, Heron had the opportunity to accompany Sir Bob Geldof to Ethiopia to show him, 25 years on from BandAid, what has been accomplished with the funds raised as well.

By January 2010 Heron was back in the UK. She was on call the night that the Haiti earthquake struck and spent that night fielding media calls. By April she was again travelling, but this time it was to attend the wedding of a fellow UWCSEA alumnus, Steven Sule, who got married in India. Heron says that there has in fact been a spate of UWCSEA weddings over the past couple of years which she has been happy to be able to attend, including Camille Dubois’ wedding last year and before that, Azmil Murad’s as well.

Aside from her Red Cross work, Heron continues to live the UWC values in other ways. During university she volunteered at Durham Prison, and up until April 2010 she worked one evening each week at a homeless drop-in centre, giving it up only due to a change in hours that she couldn’t accommodate. She has worked one Sunday every month for several years, in a kitchen making meals for delivery to people living with AIDS and she is currently looking for another volunteer position to replace the one at the homeless centre.

If you would like to get in touch with Heron she can be reached through the UWCSEA alumni website.
The students of Grade 6 had an inter-tutor group Dragon Boating Race which all the students enjoyed immensely.

The Grade 8 annual Chiang Mai experiential learning and adventure weeks involve activities which are designed to develop independence.

This January UWCSEA hosted its first Theatresports Festival. The UWCSEA team, ‘WTFriends’ won the gold medal.

The first climbing competition hosted by UWCSEA on the Dover climbing wall saw 60 competitors climbing on 10 routes.

The UWCSEA senior touch team won the Asian All Schools tournament and were runners-up at SEASAC in February.

The Aids Benefit Dinner in December was a huge success once again, raising $72,000.

The Dover Campus Community Fair 2010 involved a variety of international food and activities ranging from bouncy castles to water balloons.

The UWCSEA Jazz Band performed at the World-in-Singapore Concert 2009. Other musical concerts throughout November included the Chamber Concert, Concert Strings, Symphonic Band, Guitar Ensemble, choral groups and Cantabile, among others.

Grade 1 East Campus students support elderly residents at ‘Happy Lodge’ as part of their social service.

“Are you a Visual Citizen?” celebrated the vibrant Visual Arts scene at UWCSEA in February with hundreds of student art works ranging from the traditional to the avant-garde.
of College Events

Fourty-two East Campus staff members and their families visited the Widhya Asih Orphanage in Bali and painted a mural on the walls of the orphanage with the help of the resident children.

Grade 11 drama students entertained infant students at the End of Term 1 Infant Party.

Two Grade 11 students presented Stephen Mallatrat’s adaptation of Susan Hill’s novel, ‘The Woman in Black.’ The eerie feeling evoked by the brilliant performance of the actors had the audience on the edge of their seats.

The Dover Primary School UN Food Festival in November showed the true community spirit of UWCSEA, raising $3,612 for Global Concerns.

UWCSEA football teams triumphed at SEASAC in Jakarta in November.

The Model United Nations Conference of 2009 included 10 UWCSEA delegates hosted by the International School of Bangkok.

Opus 2010 was staged at the Esplanade Concert Hall in March this year to an audience of 1,300. It featured excellence in musical performance from all parts of the College including staff and students from both campuses.

Bhargavi B. Thakker
Bhargavi, a Grade 11 boarder and member of the Alumni Council prepared this overview of College events. She joined UWCSEA this academic year and says she feels privileged to be here. She plans to study Business Management and Sustainability at university and to help her future employers reduce their carbon footprint and thus their environmental impact.

Alex Durand
Alex, a Grade 11 US National Committee boarder and member of the Alumni Council, created the first Kaleidoscope of College Events in the December 2009 issue. She hopes to pursue Conservation Biology at university.

This year’s International Round Square Conference in October 2009, hosted in Rajasthan, India, was attended by eight High School students from UWCSEA.

The 16 and Under girls’ basketball team, coached by alumnus Dale Fisher, won the Division One League in November.
From the tumult of Singapore to the calm of the wooded heights of the Cevennes lies a certain contrast. Certainly the woods surrounding our mas (farm) know the howl of the winds, the screech of the birds, the grunts and squeals of the wild boar. Greater contrasts lie between the utter clarity of the skies here and the oft starless skies of Singapore. Let me be clear though. Singapore brought me/us unspeakable happiness. The nine years at Junior House were the best of my life. The poster facing the entrance to Junior House said it all: “This is the first day of the rest of my life,” encapsulating its unspoken promises. A few hundred boarders were confronted with that poster each time they entered. We would have the newcomers in a few days early to allow them to get the feel of the place, its ways and us. They rapidly settled in. In truth the youngsters were super - a joy to manage. Activities found their space and time: visits to Big Splash, lion dances, games on campus, the odd birthday cake whisked in from outside. It was a happy home where even pillow fights found a way in. I must confess to being involved on the odd occasion! Ann and I spent much of our first summer vacation there reflecting on our new appointment. We brought in a new broom, physically and metaphorically, wielded paint brushes and put our own stamp on the House. A galaxy of rules went out the window. We had the House much as we wished, with a pleasant library on the ground floor, supported by a thriving tuck-shop. It was a terrific experience for us and more than that, a privilege. We owed much to Matron Jo’s (Jo Subramaniam’s) doughty support.

After our move to France in 1987, we set about restoring the crumbling ruin of our mas. We are given to understand that the mas came into being some 600 years ago. The oldest part, my study now, sheltered the mounted soldiery guarding the way from Sainte Cecile to the castle of the suzerain of le Château de Portes, some ten kilometers distant. The soldiery at the mas were mounted, and the breast-plates they wore protected their chests (‘poitrines’ in French). Hence, it is suggested, the name of the mas - Le Poitrinal. The Knights Templar came along some two hundred years later, about four hundred years ago, and increased the size of the dwelling tenfold. Templar characteristics still adorn the mas.

Eight years ago we added a conservatory, ten by ten metres, facing south. Why? Old Cevenol buildings boasted walls a metre thick, with small apertures for windows. Dwellings of gloom. Restoration meant pretty much rebuilding, introducing water, sewerage, electricity and heating in the process. No mean task. Outside it involved restoring as many of the ‘faisse’ as possible. These are terraces built hundreds of years ago to retain soil, hence pastures for goats primarily, a domestic animal of the Cevennes. Faisse were circa two metres high, built of schist, a local

By Hubert May
Languages Teacher, 1976-1987
Head of Junior House, 1978-1987
I asked Hubert May if he would write a story about his time here at UWCSEA and since, and he graciously provided the story above.

He and his wife Ann spent what he describes as 11 happy years teaching at UWCSEA and seeing their three children, Jeanne, Karen and Benedict, through their school years here. They ran Junior House for nine years and they say, “We were privileged to meet a rich swathe of splendid youngsters over those years.” They still communicate with a number of the students, and their home, The Poitrinal, has been a staging post for a good number of them as well as colleagues over the years. Hubert May says that UWC remains one of his great passions in life.

Alumni who wish to be in touch with the Mays can send messages to the alumni office via email (alumni@uwcssea.edu.sg) or post (UWCSEA, 1207 Dover Road, Singapore 139654) and we will be happy to pass them on.

Brenda Whately
Hans Frederick Jelliff’s entrepreneurial tendencies have taken him from hotel management to event management and, most recently, to promoting Cuban artists and the Cuban arts scene to the rest of the world.

Fred graduated from UWCSEA in 1991. After leaving Singapore he travelled extensively, studying at various institutions around Europe, eventually earning a B.Sc. from Cardiff University and a M.Sc. from Guildford University in the field of tourism. He worked as manager of a private hotel in Bermuda for several years before going on to found his own company in Bermuda, performing event management work which he says ranged from organising New Year’s concerts with Shaggy to developing advertising campaigns for the Government of Bermuda. He adds, “I even organised a wedding in Bermuda for a fellow Class of 1991 UWCSEA graduate, Adrian Collard.”

One morning in October of 2008 Fred says he woke up with the desire to pursue a completely new challenge. He began to research into Cuba and the potential to become involved in promoting its performing arts scene. He has since gone on to found the company Cuba Professionals, which does just that.

Fred’s perception of Cuba has evolved and strengthened, he says, for every passing day that he spends there. He describes Havana as ‘a breathtaking city that assaults the senses’ and he describes Cubans as warm and welcoming people. “Even though there seem to be fundamental problems that most Cubans face, including insufficient housing, especially in the larger cities, transportation, and a healthy well rounded diet, I have been welcomed into many a home with a warmth and sincerity that is sometimes lacking in the most developed of nations.”

“This was one of my motivations for creating Cuba Professionals - to give the awesome artistic talent pool in Cuba the opportunity to share with the rest of the world.”

“I have fallen in love with the Cuban culture and its people, rich in African religions and rhythm, blended with European traditions and seasoned with the spices of the Caribbean and South America.”

Cuba Professionals is described by Fred as a project based on helping the Cuban Government to spread its culture around the world, and helping artists to grow and have the opportunity to meet likeminded people in other countries. “This was one of my motivations for creating Cuba Professionals - to give the awesome artistic talent pool in...
Cuba the opportunity to share with the rest of the world.” Fred says that his company works with all forms of entertainment, be it a full-scale ‘West End’ style production or a solo piano performance, and that his clients range from government ministries to hotels, clubs, and cruise lines. Hiring Cuban entertainers is no different than hiring artists from any other country, he says. His company makes it not only possible, but easy to access the vast talent pool. He says, “Although we have only just begun, I already realize that this will be a lifelong relationship and I want to continue to be a part of the evolution of what Cuba will become. My love of the arts, and the understanding that music and dance is the best way to bring this sometimes divided world together is what is important to me.”

Fred is hoping that Cuba Professionals will help as many Cuban artists as possible to follow their dreams and become the best that they can be. To read more about Cuba Professionals, please visit his website (www.cubaprofessionals.com) which was designed by Alexander Hutton-Potts, another UWCSEA alumnus (Class of 1992).

A travel agency called CP Travel is currently being added to Fred’s service offering, to introduce the cultural aspects of Cuba to visiting tourists, and in addition, he is working with a school offering dance, instrumental and Spanish courses. He calls it “a full circle of culture both in and outside of Cuba.”

While a student at UWCSEA, Fred had friends from around the globe, and he says that he has kept in touch with many fellow former students over the years who are now spread across the globe once again. Fred is currently based in Malaga, Spain, and he would be happy to be contacted by anyone who would like to get in touch.

fred@cubaprofessionals.com

In 2009 two charismatic young men won elections on the strength of a “Yes We Can!” campaign. One was Barack Obama, the other Grade 12 student Pandit Mami who was elected Chair of Student Council. Anyone who has seen Pandit rallying a group of students will know how quickly he can fire them up to the point of cheering.

Pandit’s leadership potential was recognised in February when he was selected from many worldwide applicants and sponsored to attend the first One Young World Summit in London. This innovative forum brought together youth from across the globe to explore issues ranging from environmentalism to inter-faith dialogue. Kofi Anan, Desmond Tutu, Bob Geldof, Senator John Kerry and HRH Prince Ferdinand of the Netherlands were among the prominent activists and politicians who exchanged ideas and visions with the participants. Pandit was inspired to work with youth so energized and committed to change, and honoured to be subsequently appointed as the Sierra Leone delegate for the 2011 World Youth Forum in Costa Rica.

No wonder his graduating class nominated him as the “student most likely to take over the world.”
**Singapore December holiday alumni reunion**
The third Singapore December holiday alumni get-together took place on Monday 21 December 2009 at the Singapore American Club. The event grew quite significantly this year with 129 attendees, up from 20 in 2008! Thanks to those who were able to make it and contribute to a great evening. We are already looking forward to seeing everyone back again in December 2010! More details will be posted on the alumni website as they become available.

**Fourth Annual London alumni reunion**
The Fourth Annual London alumni get-together took place on 22 January 2010 at the Cumberland Hotel, London UK. More than 325 alumni and guests registered for the event and joined the Head of College, Julian Whiteley, Geraint Jones and Dave Shepherd for the evening. For many of the alumni attending the event, it was the first time they were seeing classmates since leaving UWCSEA. Watch for the date and location of the fifth annual London event which will take place in January 2011!
New York alumni reunion
The New York alumni get-together took place on 23 January 2010 at
Whately and Dave Shepherd enjoyed hosting the get-together and
meeting some of the more than 150 New York and area alumni who
had registered for the event. It was the very first New York get-together
organised by UWCSEA and we hope to make it an annual tradition.
Stay tuned for the date and location of the second New York get-
together in Spring 2011.

San Francisco alumni reunion
Our first US West Coast get-together took place in San Francisco on 29 January 2010 at the Intercontinental Hotel, San Francisco. Brenda and Dave enjoyed meeting those who were able to attend and we look forward to another West Coast event in 2011!

Kuala Lumpur alumni gathering
The Alumni team organised a get-together in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 24 March 2010 while we were there for a conference. The event attracted more than 65 alumni and guests belonging to class year groups from all four decades. Brenda Whately, Dave Shepherd and Prapti Sherchan enjoyed hosting the get-together and getting to know the KL-based alumni. We look forward to making this an annual event on the reunion calendar.
Sydney alumni reunion
On 21 November 2009, alumni from the ‘70s and ‘80s class year groups organised a get-together in Sydney at Malabar South Indian restaurant. Penny Maguire reports that, “The attendees enjoyed a delicious Indian meal washed down with laughter and memories.” Some of them brought old memorabilia and interscols to share with the group. Attendees included Andrew Kirk, Geoff Brawn, Louise (Skip) Sutcliffe, Stephen Thompson, Toni Rutter (Batten), Matthew Schramko, Bronwyn Green (Laney), Anna-Karin Landgren, Graham Gourlay, Gail O’Neil, Bruce Fenwick and Penny Maguire.

UWCSEA Margaret River reunion 2010
After getting together at Reunion 2008, a group of members of the Class of 1978 decided to organise a celebration for those turning 50, to take place in Margaret River, in the south-western region of Western Australia in early 2010. As news of the location and program of the event spread, the appeal of winery tours, visiting art galleries, relaxing by the beach in the middle of perfect Australian summer weather attracted the interest of siblings as well as other alumni resident in Australia. The organisers, Lesley, Katie and John started planning the celebration for the weekend of 25 to 28 February 2010 and were blessed with perfect weather and temperatures in the mid-30’s˚C. The four day event commenced with a dinner in Perth, also attended by former UWCSEA teachers John and Sally Tunnicliffe and Margaret and Clive Sherwin and additional alumni who were unable to make the trip south to Margaret River.

In a convoy of car pooling, the group took off on the three-hour drive south to Dunsborough on the Friday morning and stayed for three nights enjoying the best of what the region had to offer. It seems a good time was had by all!

UWCSEA ‘80s reunion
A group of UWCSEA alumni from the ‘80s met in London for the third time on 26 and 27 March 2010 to reminisce and enjoy a scrumptious Malay feast with Anchor beer at the Jom Makan restaurant. This time the group was 18-strong.

First organised in March 2009, the UWCSEA ‘80s get-together has become a bi-annual gathering. The group is planning to meet again in September this year. Anyone wishing to join in the fun or wishing to know further details is welcome to email Tim Foulkes at timbof@live.co.uk or join the “UWCSEA-Unofficial-London-Reunions” fan page on Facebook.
Alumni Return to UWCSEA for Sport

by Brenda Whately

Cricket

In December 2006, seven months after graduating from UWCSEA, a group of cricketers from the Class of 2006, including Arjun Gupta, got in touch with some then-current students who were a year or two behind them and arranged to come back to play cricket together on the UWCSEA Astroturf during the holiday. This quickly developed into a regular habit and over major holiday periods they have continued to come back to play. Most of the group is made up of members of the Classes of 2006, 2007 and 2008 who are all now alumni and who have all represented the College in cricket at some point in time. A few close friends and relatives are usually included as well. Most of the players also play, or have played cricket at their universities as well as local club cricket in Singapore.

Some of the regular group include Arjun Gupta, Emaad Akhtar, Asad Taqi, Piyush Bhandari, Haider Reza and Sayantan Das from the Class of ‘06, Anant Prabhakar from the Class of ‘07, and Ashwin Narayanan, Karan Khetan, Ahsaan Ismail, Redwan Farooq and Tarun Mohan from the Class of ‘08.

Arjun says they are already looking forward to this summer. “We have been playing together for quite some time and it feels quite the same as it did when we were UWCSEA students except that we are now playing only for leisure. Even so, the intensity in the game still remains!”

Arjun has recently completed his undergraduate degree in Engineering from the University of Warwick and is currently in the process of joining his family business, looking into setting up his own ventures and considering a Master’s degree at some point in the near future. Along with sport, Arjun likes to travel which is a good thing, as he currently spends a lot of his time shuttling between Singapore and India on business.

If you would like to join Arjun and the cricket group during any holiday period, I’m sure they’d be happy to hear from you. He can be contacted through the alumni site.

Football

Back at UWCSEA in August 2009 to celebrate his 10 year anniversary at Reunion 2009, Chris Steel heard that as an alumni, he was welcome to book the football pitch at UWCSEA. He set up a Friday night game soon afterwards which has now become a fairly regular Friday night activity. More than 50% of the players are fellow alumni and the rest are friends.

Normally they have about 10 to 12 players come out each week, organised by email. The alumni part of the group includes Chris, along with Gordon Steel, Koji Rai, Tom Hutton, Alex Noel, Mohit Maheshwari, Khushil Vaswani, Daniel Franssen, Robert Schulte and Min Yong Jung.

Chris played football when he was a student at UWCSEA, for both the Under 16 and the Under 18 teams. He hadn’t been back to the school since graduation until he returned for the reunion weekend and says “It was strange to see how much the school has changed since I was there, but it still brings back memories.”

When Chris left UWCSEA in 1997 after Grade 10, he finished his A-levels at Epsom College in the UK and then went on to Southampton University where he completed a degree in Electrical Engineering. Following his graduation, he worked for Club Med in both Malaysia and the Maldives as a sailing/windsurfing instructor for a year before returning to London. In London, Chris worked in finance for three to four years before quitting his job to backpack around the world for a year, traveling to South America, Australia, through Indonesia, and up through South East Asia to China. After working in Hong Kong, he returned to Singapore where he set up his own expat services company and works as a day trader. Chris has recently however, accepted a new job in Australia and will be leaving Singapore in June. He is confident that the football group will continue to play without him, with someone else doing the organising.

If you would like to join the football group for their Friday night games, I’m sure they’d be happy to include you. Contact the alumni office at alumni@uwcsea.edu.sg and we’ll put you in touch.

Chris can be contacted through the alumni site.

Arjun Gupta, Class of 2006

Chris Steel, Class of 1999
When Petra Bussecker was 12 years old she had to cope with what I’m sure more than a few other alumni have also had to cope with at some point - being moved to a country where she didn’t speak the language. Her family moved to Singapore in 1982 from a small town about twenty minutes outside of Vienna, where Petra spoke very little to no English. She was enrolled in the Swiss School for two years during which time she worked hard to improve her English language skills, and then she was transferred to UWCSEA. She says that it had always been her parents’ intention for her to attend an English speaking school with an international character. Although her English was much improved by then, she says that she had a difficult time in her first few months, coping with a new environment, while still struggling with the language. It didn't take long however for her to start to fit in and to start participating fully in the College. She completed her GCSEs in 1986 and her IB in 1988 and was then met with her next challenge, which was to leave Singapore and her family, to head off to university.

Petra chose to return to Austria to attend the University of Vienna. Because the university was not familiar with the IB programme at that time, she found herself needing to write a History exam before final acceptance, which meant studying four years of curriculum content in four weeks, which she managed to do successfully! At the University of Vienna, Petra studied the Science of Communications and Spanish. She took Spanish because she already spoke German, English and French and thought one more language might be quite useful! She took communications for no reason that she can remember, but says now, “It turned out to be a superb decision, because I have been working in communications ever since and I absolutely love what I do.”

While still at university, Petra procured a part time job in a Public Relations (PR) agency. She loved the work so much that she steadily increased her number of working hours in the agency until soon she was working full time, even reaching the level of Vice Executive Manager while somehow continuing her studies at the same time. After some years in the agency she decided that she wanted to see the other side, i.e. carrying out PR and communications for just one firm as an in-house PR expert. She took on the role of Senior Consultant in Public Relations and Head of Communications with a trade fair organiser for two years, and then moved on to the law firm where she works currently, carrying out international PR in Austria as well as the CEE. She says her job is very challenging and full of variety, and for three years she has wakened every morning looking forward to starting her work day. The firm has offices in Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Brno, Bratislava, Warsaw and Kiev and her job covers the whole range of communications, internal and external for all offices.

Some of the joys of Petra’s life outside of work include hiking, biking, tennis and travelling with her husband, Michael. Over the past few years they have travelled to Singapore, Philippines, China, Cuba, Jamaica, Mauritius, New Zealand, Fiji and many countries in Europe.

Although she has been back to Singapore a few times with Michael, her trip to Singapore in March 2008 was actually won as a door prize at a Swiss School class reunion held in Zurich. In late 2007 her friend Sandra who had lived with Petra and her family for two years while also attending the Swiss School, invited her to Zurich to attend the class reunion together. First prize in the lucky draw was
Please send your profile suggestions for the next edition of OneºNorth, to alumnimagazine@uwcssea.edu.sg.
Midnight swims in the Arctic Ocean, visiting a northern lights research observatory, whale watching, listening to talks on particle physics and space travel, launching a rocket—nothing new to Marschenka Towle. She experienced them all at the European Space Camp in northern Norway last year, during the summer between leaving UWCSEA and entering university.

Marschenka came to UWCSEA as a Grade 3 student in 1999 and stayed until completing the IB in 2009 before moving on to the University of Manchester where she has just completed her first year in Chemical Engineering with Industrial Experience.

She first heard about the space camp held at the Andoya Rocket Range from a European education group that her mother, a UWCSEA teacher, belongs to. When she realised how nicely it tied in with her interest in physics, particularly astrophysics, and would involve a diverse group of people, she sent in her grades and references. She was selected for one of the 24 places from over 300 applicants. Marschenka says “At UWCSEA we were always encouraged to pursue our interests and to be involved in a lot of different activities, groups and school trips. So, although I had never been to Norway and I would have to travel alone to meet with a group of strangers in an unfamiliar rural location, I found this an exciting prospect rather than a nerve-wracking one!”

Based at NAROM, a space centre in northern Norway largely focused on researching the northern lights and the earth’s atmosphere, Marschenka’s group was given almost complete control (with the exception of being allowed to handle the fuel section) over a small rocket which they called ‘Mosquito.’ They planned their rocket launch, listened to interesting lectures, visited the ALOMAR observatory, socialised, performed scavenger hunts which got them quite lost in the middle of Norway despite the use of GPS, and they even got to go whale watching once the rocket was ready.

The participants were split into five groups, including Rocket System Design, Experimental Instrumentation, Rocket Payload Assembly, Rocket Telemetry and Rocket Physics. The first group, Marschenka says, was the most popular as that group built their own model rockets and had the command of ‘Launch Control’ during the actual rocket launch. This included liaising with the fire station, the airport and boats out at sea where the rocket was predicted to land. The second and third groups built the sensors (payload) of the rocket that would give data back to the fourth group who were to use the data to calculate details of the rocket launch, and the fifth group launched a weather balloon to take data which would predict the weather for the day of launch. Marschenka was appointed leader of the Rocket Telemetry group and got to play a part in the final launch.

Although supervised, Marschenka says they had full control of the launch and were given the responsibility to make the decisions regarding going ahead or not. The process began about an hour before the rocket would actually be engaged and fired. Launch Control had to supply timeline and trajectory predictions to various authorities, the airport was shut down as well as part of a main road and shipping routes were redirected temporarily. At one point they say they had to stop the countdown to try and speak to a fishing boat that was in the way. "As we tried to fire the rocket, there was an initial misfire - despite everything having been tested the day before - which was slightly worrying as we had a limited time until the engaged rocket would be disengaged. There would have been no launch had this occurred." They did manage to launch the rocket in the end although Marschenka says, “Sadly it didn’t go as high as other years, but it did go up to 9km and was in the air for about 100 seconds, with a maximum speed of 1,200 km/s and an acceleration of about 80 g’s.”

All in all, Marschenka says it was an amazing experience and she made some amazing friends.

In September 2009 Marschenka began her Chemical Engineering degree and although it is taking her a while to get used to talking about pipes, reactors and evaporators, she is enjoying the programme and the city of Manchester. Her future plans include a possible gap year after completing university as she has always wanted to do some volunteer work but was reluctant to delay her entry into university.

Marschenka wants to thank Mr Merchant and Mrs Coskinas who wrote the references that helped to get her the great experience in the space camp (http://www.spacecamp.no). To view Marschenka’s rocket launch, please visit http://bit.ly/am7kGx
Connecting philanthropy and education

The UWCSEA Foundation was officially launched in June 2008, with the specific purpose of identifying and securing additional support for the school. The Foundation is first and foremost about people. It is the conduit that facilitates our students, alumni, parents, teachers, staff and volunteers to share in the development of the school and the UWC mission. We are extremely grateful to our dedicated and committed community who collectively bring the Foundation to life. They are truly inspiring; committing their time, treasure and talent to a cause that we all believe can have a significant impact on our world.

We are indebted to our ten exceptional volunteer trustees who lead the activities of the Foundation as it works to increase scholarship opportunities, enhance infrastructure, develop student outreach programmes, enhance opportunities for teacher development and build an endowment capacity. They lead by example and have all made a financial commitment to the scholarship programme.

Inspired by the Class of ’78 who succeeded in creating the first alumni-funded scholarship, and by the graduation gift programme set up by the past two graduating classes, our youngest alumni, from the class of 2010 have identified a capital project at the Dover campus that they wish to support. Their gift will fund the purchase of some new outdoor seating for the senior students. As an incentive, our Head, Julian Whiteley has agreed to match their contribution dollar for dollar.

Many UWCSEA parents are actively involved in service programmes and outreach initiatives in the region through the SEALinks programme. They have also stepped forward to support a variety of the Foundation’s programmes. Gifts from three parents will allow five new scholarships to be awarded during 2010-2012 and several more are anticipated. Support has also been received for the outreach initiatives, teacher development and the endowment fund.

The Foundation is also delighted to have a 100% commitment to make a gift from both the trustees and the senior management team. The trustee gifts have targeted the Scholarship Fund, whilst the senior management team has selected Scholarship Enrichment, a fund that facilitates our scholars to attend conferences, Model United Nations events and our own Initiative for Peace conference in Timor-Leste. In addition to making personal contributions to the many Global Concerns groups, staff at the school continue to fund a student from the Lamdon School in Ladakh, India to attend the Mahindra UWC of India and an African student to attend Waterford Kamhlaba UWC of South Africa.

The Foundation is delighted to recognise the support of alumni and parents who have given monetary gifts as well as gifts in kind. Developing opportunities for supporters to donate skills and services reinforces our common goal to strengthen the opportunities available to our students.

We are still a very young foundation but have been encouraged by the very positive reception and the strength of feeling that surrounds individuals touched by the UWC experience. A dedicated website, http://foundation.uwcsea.edu.sg keeps our community updated on the benefits of the support we receive and the opportunities for collaboration including the annual giving opportunity which will be launched in September 2010. Your suggestions, views and comments are always appreciated: foundation@uwcsea.edu.sg

UWCSEA East Campus achieves highest distnction in the 2010 Building and Construction Authority (BCA) Green Mark awards

BCA Green Mark certification is awarded by Singapore’s Building and Construction Authority as part of a green building rating system which evaluates buildings on their environmental impact and performance. UWCSEA East Campus at Tampines has this year been awarded the top rating of Platinum.

The UWCSEA East Campus buildings are designed to consume 25 to 30 per cent less electricity than conventional buildings of similar size and function which equates to an estimated 3.08 million kWh per year. Some of the energy saving features include a solar thermal system that uses the sun’s heat to power the campus’ air conditioning and heat its water. The campus is going green in a variety of other ways as well. The exterior walls of one of the education blocks is planted with greenery which will give visitors the feeling of walking through a rain forest while at the same time it will be helping to keep the temperature lower inside.
Boutique Adventure in Argentina

by Brenda Whately

La Cumbre, Argentina, a small town in the Sierras Chicas mountain range, in the central province of Córdoba, is the idyllic location that Tristan Towers and his fiancée currently call home and from which they run their adventure travel business. They have a house at the foot of the mountains in a beautiful little town which they say has a lot of character and a unique mix of people covering the spectrum from sports enthusiasts to artists, with an extensive mix of backgrounds and nationalities. They also have a little stone cottage right in the middle of the hills, away from roads, with no electricity, where they can spend quiet, candle-lit evenings in front of a log fire.

British-born Tristan and his Argentine fiancée Antonia, met in their final year at Cardiff University. After a few years, Tristan says, “We both found ourselves falling into the trap of becoming comfortable and following the easy path in life, climbing the corporate ladder, etc. Friends were getting big mortgages and following the prescribed path that seems to be all too common in the UK, and ultimately we both realised that we wanted something different from life; not to be locked into the nine-to-five routine, working hard to get a few precious days of holiday each year! I have always loved the outdoors, and the idea of being my own boss and doing something I loved just made perfect sense! We came to Argentina in 2005 and started the business which has evolved and been reshaped along the way, into what it is today.”

Before making the break and heading to the Argentine hills, Tristan spent time in Singapore, Wales and England. He had arrived in Singapore in 1979 as a young child with his family when his father, Mikk Towers got a teaching position at UWC-SEA. In the early years Tristan attended Tanglin Trust School because UWCSEA did not have a primary school prior to 1997. The family left Singapore in 1986 but returned in 1992 and Tristan entered Year 3 (Grade 8) at UWCSEA and stayed until Year 7 (Grade 12), graduating from the IB programme in 1997. His fondest memories seem to centre around the ample opportunities offered for travel and sports, although he adds, “I also appreciate the breadth of the education I got, not just academically through the IB but also through the other opportunities including social service, project week, etc.”

“At UWCSEA, I was very involved in the climbing club led by [teacher] Phil Woolrich and lots of canoeing trips up the east coast of Malaysia with [teacher] Mike Gibby. It was through UWCSEA that I learnt to scuba dive, getting my first PADI qualification at 14 years of age. My time in Singapore was always very travel-biased. With my father being a teacher, the whole family had extended school holidays, and we used to take long trips. I remember family holidays in Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East, Southern Africa and plenty of locations in Asia.”

After leaving UWCSEA Tristan moved on to Cardiff University, but at that time he says he didn’t know what he was truly interested in. He studied Architecture for a year, and then moved into Computer Science, “because it would pay well!” After graduating in 2001 with first class honours, he worked at the university for about 18 months leading seminars and tutorials, eventually giving full lectures to the MSc and BSc students there.

Through a friend who worked in the Advanced Technology Centre at BAE Systems, Tristan was interviewed and found himself hired to work on the development of world-leading software for aerodynamic research and design. He says, “It was very interesting and rewarding, seeing my own work being used in the design of both military jets as well as Airbus civilian aircraft but after the first two years in technical work I was getting itchy feet, and still didn’t feel that I’d found my ‘calling’ in life. I moved to a project management role in a different..."
section of BAE Systems which gave me an incredible experience of various facets of the company and the industry in general, but still I didn’t feel fulfilled. I returned to the Advanced Technology Centre, and got involved in marketing and branding of the research activities which were undertaken there but almost a year later the itchy feet had still not gone away…”

That is why, in 2005, Tristan found himself in La Cumbre, starting up his own outdoor adventure travel business. By 2007 he and Antonia had reviewed their initial business design and began to revise the way they managed the business and the services they offered. The two of them together run all aspects of the business from marketing and administration to planning and guiding the trips straight through from the initial contact with the client. They do everything themselves from building the itinerary in consultation with the client, providing advice and assistance, guiding the trip, doing the cooking - everything. Tristan says, “Our guests appreciate the fact that from the very first email they send, they are asking questions of the same person who will eventually be there, participating in the activities with them. For this reason we have decided not to work with any travel agencies so that our guests benefit from a really personal and unique experience.”

Their clients have come from all over the world and they cater for almost any type of guest regardless of age, fitness level and interests. To date, most of their clients have been mainly young professionals enjoying the freedom of not yet being tied down with children, and recently retired, active people who suddenly have time for new adventures. Some of them have stayed in contact afterwards and have since become friends.

**In between trips they get to enjoy having far more time for what Tristan calls the important things in life - sports, hobbies, friends etc.**

Tristan says that he loves the freedom of choosing when and how he will work. When they are with clients they work hard and they find it very rewarding. In between trips however, they get to enjoy having far more time for what Tristan calls ‘the important things in life - sports, hobbies, friends etc.’ Tristan has started some other work on the side as well, including website design and some semi-professional pencil portraiture, and has recently started teaching himself the art of wood carving.

La Cumbre is a small town where everyone knows everyone else and so Tristan and Antonia experience a busy social life of barbecues, hiking with friends, camping trips, etc. Tristan has recently become more interested and involved in mountain biking and has started classes in Kung-Fu. His marriage to Antonia is scheduled for December 2010 and as you would probably expect after reading about his rejection of the traditional life so far, he says that it will be more of a big party than a traditional wedding.

To learn more about Tristan’s adventure travel offerings, or just to be in touch, please visit his website [www.sendastravel.com](http://www.sendastravel.com) and/or email him at info@sendastravel.com.

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Please send your travel article suggestions for the next edition of One°North, to alumnimagazine@uwcsea.edu.sg.
Gula melaka is a Peranakan dessert of pearl sago served with coconut milk and sweetened with a generous drizzle of a syrup made from the palm sugar that the dish is named after.

It is a dish that seems to be on fewer menus as the years go by but one that certainly many of my generation remember and covet.

It is the simplest of desserts to prepare (or would I attempt it?!) and made even more so by the fact that I discovered that date syrup which you can buy in most health food stores works amazingly well in place of gula melaka syrup and must be a much healthier option! That must mean less guilt when indulging in this Moorish delight!

I use pandan flavoured sago found at my local Chinese supermarket here in London and I have seen it in a few Thai stores, so I am assuming it is readily available. If not, the traditional plain white sago works just as well - I just like the green colour and the pandan flavour.

So with the tedium of boiling gula melaka until it is reduced (a time consuming and off-putting process) taken out of the equation and the easily purchased date syrup, its undisputed replacement, and no worries about grating and squeezing santan from coconuts, you too can bring back those flavour memories with minimum effort.

Bring a large pan of water to the boil. Empty the packet of sago into the water and bring it back to a boil. Stir occasionally and cook till the sago turns clear (30 minutes). You must make sure it is completely clear. Pour the sago into a large sieve and rinse with cold water. Drain completely. Transfer the sago into 4 individual, lightly greased serving dishes (it looks very pretty in glasses) and chill. When ready to serve, put jugs or bowls of coconut milk and date syrup by the sago for your guests to pour on, to suit their tastes for sweetness and creaminess. And that’s it!

Gula melaka
Sago dessert

by Aruna Khanzada
Class of 1978

GULA MELAKA
Serves four

Ingredients
1 cup pandan flavoured or plain 2mm pearl sago
3 litres of water
1 can of coconut cream
1 bottle of date syrup

Please send your recipe suggestions for the next edition of OneNorth, to alumnimagazine@uwsea.edu.sg.
1979

Alan Leong

Alan is the senior portfolio manager with the Guoco Group, based in Singapore.

John Jory

John was a boarding student for four years. His best memories of UWCSEA are five-aside soccer, listening to BBC soccer on the radio with Raj and Michael, Mr. Ho’s fried rice in the cafeteria and Geography classes with Mr. Trott and Mr. Taylor.

John graduated from Southampton University, UK in 1982 with a BSc Geology and an MSc in Mineral Exploration from the Royal School of Mines, 1983. He moved to USA in 1983, met and married Melissa in 1985 and then settled in Denver, Colorado. In 1987, John worked as a gold geologist in Nevada, mostly with Newmont Mining and Barrick, which continued until 2008. He has since moved to Mt Isa, Australia to explore uranium as Exploration Manager for Paladin Energy.

John discovered the joy of running in 2000 and so far has completed 16 marathons.

After 25 years, John is still happily married with two sons, Zachary (24) and Nicholas (12). He is still a British citizen, despite 25 years in the United States.

Louise Sutcliffe

Sally Jepson (Ahmed) and Louise (Skip) Sutcliffe celebrated Sally’s ‘coming of age’ - tropicana style over a weekend in April 2010.

1983

Eric Khoo

Eric Khoo will be heading the jury at the Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland later this year.

1989

Katherine Perry (Grinsted)

Katherine Perry has made it through into round two of the American competition for the Next Top Spiritual Author. Out of over 3000 participants, she is among the lucky 250.

Katherine now gets to submit her book proposal and first chapter to Hampton Roads, a large US publishing firm as well as to the organisers panel of the competition for review. If anyone wishes to follow her progress, Katherine invites them to join her ‘Miracles and Jasmine’ Facebook page or send an email to kathperry88@yahoo.com.sg to join her list which is specifically for the competition.

Anita Kapoor

Anita spent a couple of days with travel show host Samantha Brown who was recently in Singapore shooting her new series, Samantha Brown’s Passport to Asia. Samantha shot a part of her Singapore episode with Anita guiding her around Kampung Glam (Arab Street) and Little India and then on the Singapore Flyer, together with local actor and funny man Gurmit Singh, who Anita says is even funnier in person. The series is set to air later this year in the US on the Travel Channel and then on Discovery Travel and Living Asia.

Anita Kapoor’s radio show “FACE OFF with Anita Kapoor” which was broadcast on 93.8 FM recently concluded its last show on 13 May, 2010. Anita dedicated her 16 April 2010 show to UWCSEA.

1995

Ben Birkbeck

I am an officer in the British Army, serving in the Royal Gurkha Rifles. My wife, Katie and son, William are currently posted to London. I have been around the world a fair bit with work but get back to Singapore to see my folks as often as I can.

2000

Yuen Nirmala

Since my last short update on the second publication of One North, I have gone on to represent the state of NSW, Australia in the sport of Dragon Boating in the 2009 season. With a NSW victory at the National Championships, our crew earned the opportunity to trial for National representation to the 2009 World Dragon Boat Championships held in Prague last year.

Unfortunately I was unable to trial successfully due to a back injury sustained within the two weeks between winning nationals and trialling for the Worlds (I can’t believe it either)! However, after hearing of my ‘day job’ which revolves around Project Management, a board member of the Australian Dragon Boat Federation suggested I put my hand up to be considered for the position of Australian Team Manager.

A few exhausting and exciting months later, I was in Prague wearing Australian colours and Coat of Arms, looking after...
215 Australian athletes with five bronze, two silver and one gold medal.

Since returning from the championships I have resumed paddling, and re-injured my back - apparently I’m very good at ignoring recommendations to “take it easy”. I am now slowly mending, and have my eyes firmly set on the 2011 World Dragon Boating Championships in Tampa Bay, Florida.

2001
Kirsty Furniss
Kirsty invites you to visit the new KA’a website, featuring paintings and street art by Kirsty Furniss and Mathieu Augereau.

http://web.me.com/mathieuaugereau/ka-a

Kirsten Scott
Kirsten Scott was the guest speaker at Graduation 2010.

2004
Asha Tett

2008
Nalin Natrajan
I am currently doing my National Service (NS) in the Singapore Police Force - working in a branch that handles the offences committed by National Service Police Officers. In June 2010, I was awarded the Commissioner of Police Team Commendation, along with some of my colleagues. I’ll be heading to Northwestern University after completing my NS in September 2010.

2011
Conrad Manning
Conrad plans to embark in July 2011 on a record breaking solo attempt to circumnavigate the globe - a total of 21,600 nautical miles in under five months. He is currently seeking his sponsorships.

2010 Staff Leavers

Carrie Macdonald
Science teacher 2007-2010
“Working at UWCSEA has been life-changing. The students are incredibly motivated, the staff are inspiring and the opportunities are endless. Although I am looking forward to teaching at the Zurich International School next year, it will not be easy saying goodbye to UWCSEA. Thank you.”

Chris Hanley
Art teacher 1995-2010
“After 19 years in Singapore it is time for me to head south to take up my Australian residency in Melbourne. I have made some amazing friends, worked with incredible colleagues, taught great students, travelled to exotic locations and grown as a person. I am looking forward to my new adventure in Melbourne and will always look back on Singapore with fond memories.”

Jo Scott
Drama and English teacher 2007-2010
“The three years I have spent at UWCSEA have been without doubt the most exciting, challenging and hectic of my teaching career. Highlights are numerous, but collaborating with a fabulous group of senior school students this year to stage ‘Attempts on her Life,’ probably takes the proverbial biscuit. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work here and I will very much miss being part of such a talented, motivated and diverse school community.”

Nelson Hamre
English/Humanities teacher 2006-2010
“UWCSEA has left an indelible mark on my overall outlook on life. Now I truly feel I have a global perspective and I will never forget my many adventures with staff and students.”

Victoria Tilbury
English teacher 2008-2010
“I leave UWCSEA with a rejuvenated faith in the power of young people to effect positive change in their lives and the lives of others. Thank you, students and staff, for inspiring me, teaching me and making me smile every single day. Cheerio and good luck to all in the future.”

Pamela Males
Upper Primary School teacher, Teacher Librarian, Primary School Global Service Learning Co-ordinator, Mahindra House Non-resident Assistant Houseparent 1998 - 2010
“Thank you to my wonderful students, fabulous colleagues and friends! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at UWCSEA.” Pam is heading to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Suparna Roy
Science teacher 2007-2010
“Challenges come in many shapes and sizes. Sometimes we find them on our own shoulders and sometimes we observe them from a distance on the shoulders of others. Time after time I have witnessed UWCSEA staff and students turn challenges into opportunities to help each other and the greater global community. Your sincerity, honesty and enthusiasm have been inspirational. Thank you.”
As in previous years, all four classes are invited to a Friday evening cocktail reception and Asian-themed buffet dinner party to kick off the weekend, Saturday events organised and celebrated with your own year group and a Sunday barbecue on the campus grounds, to revisit your memories and make plans to keep in touch with old and new connections.

Check the alumni website at 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 in Singapore!