Annual Report
2013-2014

UWC COSTA RICA
Giving, Working, Helping, Learning
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I want to thank you for your support, which allows the UWC movement to continue working towards helping more and more young people become agents of change for their countries and communities.

As the only United World College in Latin America we have a great responsibility, but also the opportunity, to contribute towards the development of a generation of socially responsible individuals, committed and prepared to face the new challenges present in Latin America and other regions.

The diversity within our student community is what makes our educational model unique, particularly our cultural and geographical diversity.

Our commitment is also based on ensuring a diverse community in terms of socio-economic backgrounds, which is reflected through our scholarship program. More than 75% of our students receive either full or partial scholarships, and over 30% receive full scholarships.

Providing an educational environment that intentionally seeks to foster interactions and learning among young people from different backgrounds guarantees a future where social actors and decision makers will determine their actions based on respect, understanding and solidarity. We observe this daily through our 550 UWC Costa Rica alumni and through the network of more than 50,000 UWC alumni worldwide.

The College has developed a strategic plan for the next five years. Priorities have been identified, such as increasing the number of our students, ensuring the sustainability of our scholarship program, improving infrastructure, strengthening our educational programs and generating a greater impact in the region. Within this initiative, your support will be critical to continue developing future generations of students and UWC Costa Rica alumni.

Many thanks,
“I can tell you the number of seeds in an orange but I can’t tell you the number of oranges from one seed.” I don’t know the origin of that wise observation but I see it in every part of our UWC world.

Throughout my 12-year association with the UWC movement and my last 18 months as Board Chair at our College, I have loved and continue to love meeting with students, their families and our alumni. In you, I see the truth of that adage about seeds and the far-reaching effect of this good work.

As parents, you plant the seeds in your children to find their own place and role in the world. Then our young students arrive in Costa Rica, leaving all that is familiar – family, friends, language, everything! During their two years at the College, that seed and spirit to become risk-takers grows at astonishing speeds, as our students discover their unique voices, talents, and paths for their life journey. Risk-takers to change-makers grow from those seeds.

In talking with the different generations of family members who come for graduation, I have also heard stories of how entire families are also changed by their children’s UWC Costa Rica experience. The conversations at home are different. The social awareness shifts. As one grandparent said, “My granddaughter has helped us all to grow in new ways; to see the world differently.”

And then there are our alumni—all 550 of you! When I meet you, I see those seeds are putting out deep roots and strong branches into the larger and diverse worlds you are moving into. You take the values of the UWC mission into your university communities, your workplaces and your own new families. I am often awed as I listen to alumni stories and the underlying enthusiasm, optimism, courage and determination to make your lives of value to yourselves and others. Already those seeds are bearing fruit.

I believe in these seeds and that they will create what is so needed to make positive changes in our world. And I believe too, that all of us—families, alumni, and advocates of UWC—are called to be active caretakers of these seeds.

I invite you to become committed and stay committed to being part of UWC Costa Rica so that together we can continue to be here to nurture our newest generations of leaders.

Thank you for the gifts you make and the ways you contribute to this amazing place,

Susan Mullins
UWC Costa Rica 2014-2015: Nationalities

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Austria
4. Barbados
5. Belgium
6. Bermuda
7. Bolivia
8. Botswana
9. Brazil
10. Canada
11. Chile
12. China
13. Colombia
14. Costa Rica
15. Czech Republic
16. Denmark
17. Dominican Republic
18. El Salvador
19. Ethiopia
20. Finland
21. France
22. Germany
23. Ghana
24. Greece
25. Guatemala
26. Honduras
27. Hong Kong
28. Ireland
29. India
30. Israel
31. Italy
32. Japan
33. Kenya
34. Macedonia
35. Malawi
36. Malaysia
37. Mexico
38. Nepal
39. Netherlands
40. New Zealand
41. Nicaragua
42. Nigeria
43. Norway
44. Pakistan
45. Panama
46. Paraguay
47. Peru
48. Romania
49. Russia
50. St. Kitts
51. Somaliland
52. South Africa
53. Spain
54. Sudan
55. Swaziland
56. Sweden
57. Switzerland
58. Syria
59. Tajikistan
60. Thailand
61. Trinidad and Tobago
62. Turkey
63. Uganda
64. UK
65. USA
66. Venezuela
67. Western Sahara - Algeria
68. Zambia

Alumni Profile
David Selassie Opoku
Ghana – Class of 2008

While pursuing his B.A. in Biology with an emphasis in Bioinformatics at Swarthmore College, David’s passion for education led him to co-found ADOORE, a student-led organization dedicated to increasing access to educational resources and technology for individuals in his home country of Ghana.

After Swarthmore, David went to the New Jersey Institute of Technology for a Masters in Computer Science with an emphasis in Bioinformatics and Machine Learning. He then interned with the Immunization Unit in UNICEF and as a Web Engineer with a tech startup in New York City.

David’s love for science, technology and people has lead him to be involved in many initiatives and organizations. He worked as a Technology Associate and Grant Advisory Member for Swarthmore College’s Eugene Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility, as a Web Developer for the Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELF) and in 2012 he became a member of the Clinton Global Initiative University group.

David proudly represented UWC Costa Rica as a Davis UWC Scholar. He currently works at the Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology as a Technology Teaching Fellow, helping to train and mentor young entrepreneurs from Ghana and Nigeria in software development, business, leadership and marketing.
Alumni Profile

Liza Gashi
Kosovo – Class of 2009

Connection and unity is the driving force behind the site KosovoDiaspora.org, an online crowdsourcing digital engagement and diplomacy platform developed and managed by Liza.

Her love and commitment towards Kosovo also motivated her to establish the UWC National Committee in Kosovo, thus allowing more students like her to experience UWC.

During her last year in Wartburg College, where she studied International Relations, Political Science and Spanish, Liza was honored with the Outstanding International Senior Award, recognizing her commitment to academic excellence, involvement and service in campus activities and overall leadership amongst the international student community. She is also a member of the Clinton Global Initiative University group.

Liza just started her Master’s Degree at Arizona State University’s School of Public Affairs.

University Matriculation
Classes of 2013 & 2014

College of the Atlantic
Bard College
Bates College
Brandeis University
University of British Columbia
Brown University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, San Diego
Cardiff University
Colby College
Colorado College
Cornell University
Duke University
University of Edinburgh
University of Florida
University of Glasgow
Hendrix College
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
The College of Idaho
IE University Spain
University of Kent
University of Liverpool
Kings College, London
Lewis and Clark College
Luther College
Macalester College
University of Manchester
Methodist University
McGill University
Middlebury College
Mount Holyoke College
University of Melbourne
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
New York University Abu Dhabi
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma
Princeton University
Quest University
Reed College
University of Richmond
Ringling College of Art and Design
University of Rochester

Sarah Lawrence College
Sciences Po / University College London
Simon Fraser University
Skidmore College
Smith College
SOAS School of Oriental and African Studies
St. Lawrence University
St. Olaf College
St. Francis Xavier University
Stanford University
SUNY Maritime College
Tufts University
Union College
University College Utrecht
Wartburg College
Wellesley University
Westminster College
Wheaton College
Williams College
Alumni Profile

Mirja Hitzemann
Niger – Class of 2009

A recent graduate of Occidental College with a B.A. in History, Mirja has stood out not only in her academic studies but also for her work in a variety of prestigious internships involving sustainable development and human rights.

She interned as a Program Assistant at Tostan, an African-based organization focused on community development, and as Executive Coordinator at the Center for the Working Poor, working towards promoting non-violent social change.

Most recently Mirja had the opportunity to contribute as an Intern Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations.

Upon her university graduation, Mirja began working as a Campaign Organizer for Sustain US, where she will be focusing on guiding student environmental action groups.
Working with people who love UWC is extraordinarily rewarding. In the documentary The UWC Spirit, filmmaker Andrés Broennimann captures the heart of what motivates us: he refers to a conscientious decision to join a movement to change the world.

Changing the world is a big task, so we need a big team to make it all happen. Your participation on that team is essential to what we do.

The UWC Costa Rica ethos creates opportunities for change, and the team of people who makes all this possible is diverse and generous. Our National Committees contribute an important source of income to fund scholarships. Our alumni contribute significantly to the success and promotion of the College. The Shelby Davis Foundation supports us generously. Our Board and Advisory Council members give freely so that programs can continue to grow. Local businesses, parents and grandparents, interested partners from all over the world—each one makes up our team of selfless individuals who give joyfully to ensure that the mission, using education as a tool for peace and a sustainable future, can continue.

Here, you can see where the money comes from and how the resources are used. Our goal is to present to you a transparent window of finances. It is critical that we expand our ability to raise the funds to offer scholarships to insure a socio-economically diverse student body, to update our facilities and infrastructure, to expand our rigorous academic program, and to make UWC Costa Rica the best option in Latin America for students and staff alike. We challenge ourselves to continue to give, to work, to help, and to learn. We invite you to join us in supporting this tremendous effort.

Here we share a summary of UWC Costa Rica’s externally audited financial statements. The audit was performed and certified by Fernández, Zeledón & Asociados.

Additional information can be found on our website: www.uwccostarica.org
Luis is a dedicated peace advocate. He has worked with indigenous populations of Peru and with educators who teach children and adolescent workers.

Earlier this year his team project PÁZala: Fostering Intercultural Education and Peace, won $50,000 USD from the Journalist and Writers Foundation. This initiative seeks to breakthrough social and economic barriers by promoting peaceful coexistence and cultural understanding among different populations in Peru.

He also won a Davis Project for Peace award for “Peace Me the Ball”. Together with fellow UWC Costa Rica alum Mauricio Santiago (Brazil, Class of 2008), they created a program that uses soccer as a pedagogical tool for conflict transformation in Brazil.

Luis successfully completed a double major B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology, and International Economics. He is now specializing in Social Anthropology at the Universidad Federal Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.

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Alumni Profile

**Luis Reyes**

Peru – Class of 2009

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We want to thank all our partners and donors who have generously given to support UWC Costa Rica in the 2013-2014 year. Because of them, we are touching lives and changing the future. These gifts mean everything to us. Thank you!

Thank You!

Donors List

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Fundación de Estudios Brasileños Costa Rica
La República Media Group
U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica
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Anja Merchant
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