

JULY 2013
UWC Philippines

Inside

Hear from recent UWC graduates. Where are they headed now?

Meet our new UWC scholars, class of 2013-2015

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

UWC Selecting on Potential

Year after year, national committees all over the world take on the arduous task of selecting their next representative scholar to the United World Colleges. For fifty years, the national committees have attempted to interpret and fulfill the UWC mission: to make education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. After fifty years, we look back and evaluate if our unique interpretations have brought us closer to our goal. We ask ourselves the questions:

Do we attract people of varied backgrounds and values, or primarily western, liberal elites who already share our values?

Do we seek and foster diversity from admittees to alumni, or do we turn diversity into UWC conformity?

Can selection ever be unbiased, and if so, how can we ensure that it is?

In the next few issues of the UWC Philippines Newsletter, we'll update the committee on the topics and ideas that arose from the 2013 International Congress in London. We'd like to hear your thoughts on the questions above.

Email: uwc.philippines.nc@gmail.com

Subject: Selecting on Potential



Magel Alcantar and **Rosanele Groleau**
photographed with fellow UWCers
at the 2013 International UWC Congress
in London.

ALUMNI GATHERINGS

RECENT UWC GRADUATES

GABRIELLE MARIE SANTOS // Pearson College '13

*Pearson College Year 38. 19 years old.
Currently in Silang, Cavite, Philippines.*

Hobbies & General Interests: Outdoor activities and sports like triathlon, SCUBA diving, kayaking, basketball, wallclimbing; music to the indie/alternative tune; Criminal Minds TV series.

Where are you headed after UWC?

I leave late August for Middlebury College in Vermont, USA. I wish to pursue an interdisciplinary degree in International Politics and Economics. I'm not entirely sure where that path might take me, but I am passionate about using economics to create better opportunities and improve the quality of life in developing countries, especially our own.

If you could go back in time and give advice to yourself before you began at UWC, what would you tell yourself?

Don't be so sure about yourself. The UWC experience is like the last stage in solving a Rubik's cube. Just when you think you're almost done, the final algorithm requires you to mess everything up, have faith, and find that it is the only way the cube can be solved.

What is one of the most important lessons you learned while at UWC? And how did you learn this?

We are who we are. It is only in being true to ourselves that we can find genuine happiness. UWC became the perfect environment for me to learn myself, accept my vulnerabilities as well as strengths, and it was through sharing myself wholeheartedly that I've become the happiest I've ever been, by far.



Here's Gabbie right after her graduation/bay jump.

A Pearson tradition.

gtrisantos@yahoo.com

RECENT UWC GRADUATES



BREA DIONISIO // Li Po Chun UWC of HK

18 years old. Heading to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Hobbies & General Interests: Reading, eating, traveling, writing, tinkering around with my computer

Attending a UWC was by all means empowering. In UWC, I found people who were in the process of improving the lives of people around them and those who were in the process of just realizing their own initiatives. I found people who, despite their differences, were willing to listen to each other and encourage each other. In the past, reaching out and sharing my ideas with others seemed pointless. I feel differently now.

I'd say come to UWC with an open mind. Many of us enter with certain preconceptions about our UWC and UWC as a whole, and to an extent they are true. But each experience is unique, and yours will be what you make of it. Come to UWC eager to learn, and you truly will.

Photos from Brea's UWC graduation on May 23rd.

Top photo: Brea with friends Jenny Kang (S. Korea) and Catherine Tang (Hong Kong).

Bottom photo: Brea with her brother and father. Her co-years are in the background.

SUPPORT LOCAL INITIATIVES & UWC ALUMNI

The Buhay Makulay Children's Project Inc., local NGO run by UWC alumna Tanya Aritao, kicked off new program, Likha this June 2013.

Their children represent the country's poorest communities, families living with terminal illnesses like HIV/AIDS, or households torn down by abuse or abandonment. Running from June to December, Likha gives children the space to express themselves through visual and performance art. More than teaching about the arts, Likha nurtures a healthy community of children where each child feels loved and cared for.

Help support the program with donations in cash or kind. Contact Tanya for more info at 09178274755 or at nathania.aritao@gmail.com



NATHANIA ARITAO // UWC Costa Rica '08

NEW UWC SCHOLARS

TESS LOCKEY // Li Po Chun UWC '15



16 years old.

Graduated from the Sacred Heart School- Ateneo de Cebu

Hobbies and general interests: Digital and traditional drawing;
Reading novels

I first heard about UWC from my father. He gave me a website link, and I decided to look around and do a little research. The more I read, the more I thought I didn't stand a chance getting in, though I wanted to even more than before. I was surprised and ecstatic when I received an email for an interview.

My overwhelming joy, however, soon turned into overwhelming fear: I was a nervous wreck before, during, and even after the selection process. I couldn't sleep the night before! It's strange to note, though, that despite my clammy hands and my shaky voice and my head (and the rest of me) slowly turning into jelly, I consider that day a fun one. I got to meet cool people (and I'm not just talking about the ones my age) and to talk and laugh and get a tiny taste of UWC.

They say you never really know what the UWC experience is going to be like until you're actually standing there, living in it. Well, I'm certainly looking forward to finding out.

JEM AIZEN GUHIT // UWC Maastricht '15

17 years old.

*Graduated from
International Christian Academy.*

Hobbies & general interests: Singing, theater acting, ice skating,
writing, science, history.

How did you hear about UWC?

In my school, for the past years International Christian Academy (ICA), has been sending alumna to UWC.

What are you going to miss the most about the Philippines when you leave?

My family, friends, and The HOT WEATHER!

How did you feel during/what did you think of the selection process?

I felt blessed. I just said to God, if this is His will, let it be. And during the selection process, I just had peace.

What are you most looking forward to at your UWC?

Meeting new people and interacting and understanding their culture. Everything new. Lots of activities, well rounded in academics and extra-curricular activities.



ALUMNI UPDATES

JULMAR CARCEDO

// Li Po Chun UWC '12
Brown University Class of 2016



Hi UWC Pinoy Family! My wonderful freshman year at Brown just ended. However, I want to share one of my year's highlights. Last April 27th, as Cultural Chair of the Filipino Alliance, I spearheaded our first-ever Cultural show, **MABUHAY!** It was a great success with an array of performances such as spoken word, dance and even Rondalla! It was definitely "revolutionary" because our "Filipino culture" is relatively unknown to the students here at Brown and through the Cultural Show, they discovered a culture that is not only rich but FUN!

If you are interested, the link to the show is here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNE8oxCDsnE&list=PL_-Yfk_qd53zrDKDybJqya2wcR7-RZqkL

LAUREN PASTORES

// Armand Hammer UWC

Hey UWC Pinoy Family! This past semester, I worked on designing a minor in Transnational Studies, under Westminster's Self-Design Major/Minors program. It took time and effort, but thankfully all that work didn't go in vain as the minor was approved. Yay! So I am now officially majoring in International Business, and minoring in Transnational Studies and Business Administration.

I am now currently working on preparations for this next semester with the Semester at Sea study abroad program, where my school will literally be a ship, and will travel to Europe, Africa, and South America. While at sea, we will be attending classes inside the ship, then while on port, we have field labs to accomplish around the cities in the different countries we will be visiting. Exciting!

Since mid June, I have been interning at Asia Society Philippines under the supervision of the organization's Program Officer.

(FB: <https://www.facebook.com/AsiaSocietyPH?fref=ts> Twitter: @Asiasocietph)



Lauren with the other executive members of Westminster's International Organization, during our term (which ended last December 2012)

GIGI VIRATA // UWC of the Atlantic

It wasn't hard for my mom, Irish-Filipino stage actress Joy Virata, when she heard of the UWCs (back in 1976), to imagine how wonderful it would be for me to be studying and living in a castle in Wales. Next month, many of my fellow Atlantic College class 1978 alumni will be meeting at a villa in Tuscany, Italy, to renew ties and reminisce on that incredible 2-year experience. Alas, I can only join them in my imagination.

I'm staying home to produce and try to convince enough people to watch the wonderful theater experience that is **"Mind's Eye"** starring two of Manila's finest actresses, Jenny Jamora and Joy Virata. They recreate two fascinating characters, with nothing in common, who embark on an imaginary trip--to Italy--and end with a shared experience that changes them for good.

Don't miss it this time. Sept. 6, 8 pm, and Sept. 7 & 8' 3 pm. RCBC Plaza. Tickets at Ticketworld.com.ph.



NICOLE SEVERINO // Pearson College

Haller mga kapatid at kapwa-katipunero!

Am shuttling back and forth between three cities here in North America and loving the huge community of global citizens I'm witnessing.

New York welcomed me with a show and I must say it's certainly the best energy for creative work. Montreal was a homecoming moment and also family is always at the center of every Filipino heart. Finally, looking forward to linking up again with the **UWC** movement at every turn!

Fundamentally witnessing a sense of social responsibility and educational citizenship from the Pearson link which is the core of my artistry nowadays. I have become a completely different person from what my background and culture grew me from, and it has enriched me tremendously spiritually, psychologically, and socially. Economically leaning towards an entrepreneurial model that I want to build in service of others. Share / sustain / inspire drive me, and my music is consumable and exponentially available for you all! Thank you for making me what I am today.

Itaguyod ang artistang Pilipino.

www.facebook.com/nyko.maca

www.twitter.com/nykomaca

www.soundcloud.com/nykomaca

www.sinyama.com/libredownload

LETTER to the UWC PHILIPPINES FAMILY

4 July 2013

Mga Kapwa Katipunerong UWC,

Mabuhay!

For nearly 50 years, the Philippines has enjoyed the benefits of a United World College education and as a National Committee has had invaluable support from the Ayala Foundation in its inception and volunteer-based participation from alumni, family and friends. Now on it's 50th year, we are moving forward with a new strategy aimed at increasing our reach in selection, presence, and ability to execute the UWC vision of global understanding and education as a force to unite people for sustainable social change.

In order to do so we have identified key areas for applying our efforts:

1. Selection Process
2. National Committee objectives and resources
3. Social and Community Initiatives

The Selection Process has been generously supported by alumni and parents and requires advertising to potential applicants. This including activities that the NC organizes to inform, engage, and finally choose scholars for the coming year. Ideally we promote beginning August, start accepting applications in January and finish with selection in April of the following year. Bear in mind that scholarships offered to the NC are a function of availability from UWC schools together with the number of applicants that we gather annually.

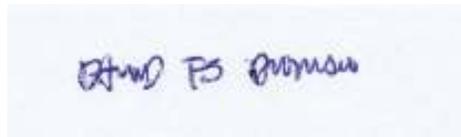
We are currently in the process of incorporating our National Committee create a formal structure by which we can receive contributions from pre-existing, current and new potential donors. When the Ayala Foundation turned over responsibility of the NC to Alumni in 2005 we enjoyed a one-time grant to get us on our feet. Nearly a decade later it is clear that in order to maximize the value of the \$80,000.00 2-year program that each scholar receives, we need to appeal to a broader student base and wider range of applicants than ever.

Social and Community Initiatives have been ongoing and some examples of the work are a Gumboot project with the Museo Pambata, Football meet with Kaya FC and the recent-born UWC Philippines Newsletter spearheaded by Tanya Aritao (CR '06-'08). Along with our SSS gatherings and sporadic UWC hangouts we are seeing an upsurge in social activity and influx of both local and international students and alumni enriching our shores.

This will entail a certain time and work commitment that Dav Dionisio and myself are glad to take on as "Project and Administrative Coordinators". Broad descriptions to mean anything and everything we need done. As past volunteers and alumni it has been a pleasure to give back to the movement by becoming involved, and now, bilang inyong lingkod! We are taking this opportunity to open a discussion for any suggestions, contributions, inquiries, and ideas you may have that will allow us to execute our common vision of the UWC ideals within a Filipino context.

Our representative to the International Office is currently Ms. Magel Alcantar (AH '02-'04), and past alumni Mrs. Rosanele Romero-Groleau (PC '94-'96) and Ms. Gillian Virata (AC '76-'78) have been most active, to whom we are deeply grateful, and we also want to mention Mr. Cesar Virata (Chairperson), Mrs. JingJing Romero and Mrs. Divina Reyes for their invaluable alumni parents' participation in the Committee. All the rest of our alumni, family and partners have also been integral to our success thus far and we dedicate our efforts to your communal participation, and look forward to seeing and hearing from you more!

Yours,



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INFO on FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/UwcPhilippines
MAILING LIST: groups.yahoo.com/group/uwcpinoy/members



UWC makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

ABOUT THE UWC MOVEMENT

UWC schools, colleges and programmes deliver a challenging and transformative educational experience to a diverse cross section of students, inspiring them to create a more peaceful and sustainable future.

UWC was founded in 1962 with the vision of bringing together young people whose experience was of the political conflict of the cold war era, offering an educational experience based on shared learning, collaboration and understanding so that the students

would act as champions of peace. We remain committed to this goal today but have expanded our reach to embrace the tensions and conflicts that exist within as well as between societies.

UWC has 12 schools and colleges educating students aged between 12 and 19. The education at UWC schools and colleges is underpinned by shared guiding principles.

(Taken from http://www.uwc.org/about_uwc/default.aspx)

Find out more at www.uwc.org.

UWC Philippines

www.facebook.com/UwcPhilippines
uwc.philippines.nc@gmail.com



Have something for our quarterly newsletter? Send personal updates, information on projects, relevant news, and photos to nathania.aritao@gmail.com with the subject line: UWC PH Quarterly Submission.

UWC VALUES

- International and intercultural understanding
- Celebration of difference
- Personal responsibility and integrity
- Mutual responsibility and respect
- Compassion and service
- Respect for the environment
- A sense of idealism
- Personal challenge
- Action and personal example