

PRESIDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

“Wellesley College is proud to be one of the first five institutions to partner with the Davis United World College Scholars Program. Since 2000, Davis UWC Scholars have arrived on campus with diverse talents, experiences, and ideas that enrich our classroom learning and community dialogue. They bring to Wellesley a unique and valuable perspective and leave with the education and skills they will need to shape a better world.”

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GRADUATES IN ACTION

A Better Deal for Female Coffee Growers

“Women own 25% of the world’s coffee farms and make up 70% of the workforce in the coffee-growing process,” writes **Abhinav Khanal** (Nepal, Pearson UWC, Earlham ’16). “Yet they earn 39% less than their male counterparts, have lower yields, and are regularly challenged with lack of finance and gender-based discrimination.”

“This is the status quo that we are disrupting at Bean Voyage.”

Winner of the 2018 Grand Prize in the Facebook Social Entrepreneurship Awards competition, Bean Voyage is a Costa Rica-based nonprofit founded in 2016 by Abhinav and **SungHee Tark** (South Korea, Mahindra UWC, Earlham ’16) with three fellow Earlham students.

The company’s “Care Trade Program” provides direct-to-consumer market access to women coffee growers who operate small holdings, plus a training on producing coffee that is both environmentally sustainable and more profitable.

“Each producer graduates as a Care Trader,” SungHee writes, “and is able to enroll into the Bean Voyage e-commerce platform to sell their coffee directly to consumers around the world. By eliminating intermediaries, our graduates are able to earn at least 200% more income than fair trade prices.”

The program has so far graduated 47 producers. Over the next three years, Abhinav, who manages fundraising and outreach, and SungHee, who runs training and evaluation while working toward a master’s at the London School of Economics, hope to reach 1,500 more female coffee growers.

Top Prize in the Facebook award competition gave Bean Voyage \$55,000 worth of Facebook ad credits, plus mentoring from Facebook’s global marketing VP.



SungHee Tark, left, and Abhinav Khanal in Costa Rica.

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