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# 2017-2018

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# message from UNIS' Interim Director



#### My dear friends in the UNIS community:

Thank you for reading through the 2017-18 Annual Report. We took more important steps forward in this year of transition. As interim director and 1983 graduate, I was proud to lead UNIS through its 70th year of excellence.

Our birthday celebration brought hundreds to celebrate and our new Board Chair, Catherine Pollard, hosted the appearance of the Deputy Secretary General.

We were reminded of our deep roots in the UN mission and the UN family, and the UN reaffirmed its continued support for the school and its educational goals.

We also welcomed our new Executive Director, Dr. Dan Brenner, who began his tenure at UNIS September 2018. UNIS has shown its capacity for growth and evolution in the dynamic world of international education, and we look forward to another 70 years educating the world's leaders.

Sincerely, Salvador Uy, Class of 1983

# highlights | JUNIOR SCHOOL

#### **JS Student Council**

The JS Student Council representatives did an exemplary job in 2017-2018. They raised a near record amount for their UNICEF collections. Many families were fed with food donated to City Harvest by the UNIS community. Project Cicero books helped supplement classroom libraries in under-resourced New York City public schools. JS student representatives communicated the importance of these schoolwide community projects to their homeroom and buddy classes.

Finally, the Student Council had the opportunity to articulate what they love about the JS and how it could be improved. In collaboration with the Department of Innovation and Research, the children surveyed JS students and worked diligently to prioritize their wants and needs. 'Relationships and Collaboration, Timing and Pacing, Space and Security' were among the most important priorities. Mr. Vallet and the Leadership Team continued to work hard on the initiatives suggested by the Student Council.

### **UN Day**

Our community celebrated the 72nd birthday of the UN on Friday, October 20th. Families dressed in outfits that represent their background, or a place that speaks to their heart. We celebrated diversity with a parade of multicolored flags of many countries. We had spices and flavors from all over the world, multilingual songs echoing in the hallways, and a guest speaker who brought everyone together around the concept of kindness. TH students read, painted, and drew with the youngest students. We created a mandala of flowers to express our strong connection with the United Nations. This day of celebration of our diversity demonstrates our strength and ability to live together with dignity and respect for our differences.

#### Cardboard Challenge

The 5th Annual UNIS Cardboard Challenge was inspired by the film 'Caine's Arcade.' This family event celebrating creativity gave our students hours of opportunity to use cardboard, recycled materials, and a big helping of creativity to build whatever they imagined. Throughout the day the children demonstrated many of the learner profile attributes that we focus on in classrooms-they were thinkers, inquirers, and risk takers who demonstrated caring and sharing. Parents also joined in the fun, designing their own creations alongside their children.





# Story Book Parade & Author Readings

We continued the Junior School tradition of celebrating our young readers and writers with a Story Book Parade on the morning of Friday, May 11th. Our students chose a favorite book character to represent. The whole school turned out to cheer the students as they paraded through the lobby and the front of the school dressed as a character they love.

The festivities continued during the Author Readings on the evening of May 11th when our young authors presented their original writings. They read aloud to an audience of parents and classmates proudly sharing their own carefully crafted pieces.



# highlights | middle school



#### **UNICEF/UN**

UNICEF presented to the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) at the UN. The focus was the fourth sustainable development goal, which is to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." Malala Yousafzai spoke. Three students per grade were selected to attend this event.

#### M3 Storytelling Evening

The power of storytelling is part of the literary ethos of our program at UNIS. The

incisive value of a well-told story is hard to deny and, in fact, can be life-changing. On this very special evening, M3 students crafted and delivered personal vignettes to a roomful of parents and peers.

#### M1 Living Museum

The M1 students continued the tradition of participating in the Ancient Egyptian Living Museum. Students researched various topics and created characters based on the information they gathered. Dressing as ancient Egyptians, the museum came alive as the students shared their stories with their parents bringing them back 5,000 years in time to



celebrate the accomplishments of this great ancient civilization.

#### M4 Language Immersion Trips

M4 students who were studying French participated in an exchange program with Collège Clémence Royer in Montpellier, France. While there, our students took French classes and participated in a variety of cultural and fun activities, including a safari discovery of Camargue, zip lining, and an aquarium visit. Students from France spent one week in New York in April, hosted by UNIS families.



M4 students who were studying Spanish participated in a cultural experience in Costa Rica where they improved their language fluency while enjoying an international experience full of individual adventures and discovery. The students developed their intercultural competence thanks to a wide variety of activities including community service, language classes, and visits.



### Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi Meets M1 Students

The Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, visited the M1s as part of the students' study on democracy and the environment. Her presentation was fascinating, inspiring, and heartwarming as she reflected on her many years in government, working with a number of different presidents. She addressed climate change and its impact on California where she is from and talked about what motivated and inspired her to work in government and to ultimately become the highest ranked female government official in United States history.

## Student Council

The Student Council hosted a variety of

events to celebrate the completion of another school year. The days focused on themes, such as Pajama Day, Wacky Wednesday, when students came to school with different shoes on each foot, and Jersey Day when students donned the jersey of their favorite sports player.

#### **Charity Water Drive**

In conjunction with their literary study of *A Long Walk to Water* and their Humanities focus on water as a scarce resource, the M1 students brought to school gallon jugs filled with recycled water and carried these jugs for one mile along the East River. As a grade, they raised money for the charity *Water*, an organization dedicated to building and maintaining water wells in impoverished areas around the globe. They surpassed their goal of \$15,000, which will pay to build three of these wells.

#### M3 Listening Project Partnership with NYU

M3 students engaged with NYU's *The Listening Project* in a full unit of study. Students learned from NYU Professors how to listen closely during interviews with loved ones, to follow their curiosity, to ask questions that would help them combat assumptions they may carry about the interviewees, and then to write a biographical sketch of a loved one or community member based on multiple interviews. This protocol of transformative listening was designed to help community members – in a family, in a school setting, and beyond feel "seen" and develop a greater sense of connection to place and people.

# UNIS Students at the UN During the GA

Twelve UNIS students (representing sixteen nationalities) were invited by UNICEF to attend a talk about education at the UN, moderated by former British PM Gordon Brown, and featuring Pakistani Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai, French President Emmanuel Macron, Malawi President Peter Mutharika, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, and others. Following the talk, students spoke eloquently, at the UNICEF headquarters, about the challenges faced by children in conflict zones.



# highlights | tutorial house



#### **UNIS-UN**

This year, our signature student-led event was opened by Interim Executive Director Salvador Uy in the UN General Assembly Hall. This year's theme "Under CTRL: Technology, Innovation and the Future of Work," explored questions about how innovations will improve not only lifestyle but efforts in development, how our increasing use of technology may also be a risk to our privacy, and the profound social and political effects that the rapid rise in automation may have on future generations of workers. Joining our own T3/T4s were about 600 students from around the world in attendance at the conference.

## T2 Students Meet the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs

T2 Italian Mother Tongue students, accompanied by Mr. Paco Barba Moran, Director of Modern Languages and their Italian teacher, Ms. Daniela Pezzuti, attended a reception at the Consulate of Italy in New York. Our students greeted the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Consulate and had the opportunity to talk with him during the reception.

#### Annual Human Rights Conference at UNIS

UNIS students and others from visiting schools were welcomed at the Opening



Session of the Annual Human Rights Conference. They then attended various interactive workshops on the issue of Human Trafficking, a grave violation of Human Rights. They participated in insightful discussion with peers and formulated a short response proposal by creating a Public Service Announcement (PSA) video related to what they learned in their specific workshop. Student produced PSA videos will be presented to a larger group at the UNHQ where students will engage in further discussion. Representatives from organizations such as Covenant House Anti-Trafficking, LifeWay Network, and UN Women spoke about their expertise and experiences regarding Human Trafficking, ways to raise awareness to help prevent exploitation and how to identify the specific needs of vulnerable populations.

# TH Students Received by the Ambassador of Japan

TH Japanese students attended a #PeacelsEvent at UN Headquarters at the invitation of Ambassador Koro Bessho, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN. The event included a performance by Miyavi, UNHCR Goodwill





Ambassador, and rapper Sonita Aizadeh, an Afghan Refugee. Our students had the chance to engrave their messages of peace on the Peace Wall!

#### Ban Ki-Moon Attends Model UN Conference at UNIS

His Excellency Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon opened the Model UN Conference at UNIS with a memorable and inspiring speech on our roles as global citizens and developing awareness of solutions to global issues. Students participated in a long day of debate and diplomacy. We thank His Excellency for a wonderful experience, and for his engagement with the school during his tenure.

#### Nepal Club Raises Over \$34,000 to Help Rebuild a School

With the help of the UNIS community last year, the Nepal Club raised over \$34,000 and received a grant from the Hope Project for \$75,000 to rebuild Sanjeevani School in Nepal. Construction started on the new school building of Sanjeevani. We want to thank the UNIS community whose support will enable the children of Sanjeevani to have a school building which includes a different classroom for each grade and a library room. Recently the Nepal Club began raising money to institute a meal program in a different school, Shree Deurali, in Bandipur, Nepal. Since we began the meal program at Sanjeevani school in 2015, attendance has gone up by 25%. So far the Nepal Club has raised \$18,500! For more information about our projects, please visit our website: www.schoolsofnepal.com.



# highlights | arts



What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

United Nations International School presents *Romeo and Juliet* March 13–15, 2018

ng RIORDAN SABATINI as ROMEO & JULIA KAUFMAN as JULIET



#### **Theater Arts at UNIS**

Nine students graduated from the IB Theatre program and among their many accomplishments was a topscoring Extended Essay entitled "Politics as Power Play" that compared Aristotle's theory of audience experiences to theatre maker Augusto Boal's activist approach to audience engagement.

The department also produced two musicals, a Shakespearean tragedy, and a student-written play entitled *Breathe, Air, Harmony* that included original music and lyrics.

The Junior School production of *Singin' in the Rain* included a spectacular wall of water descending from the ceiling, The Middle School musical *Xanadu* featured singing roller skaters, confetti cannons, and a gorgeous, glow-in-the-dark floor design. The Tutorial House production of *Romeo & Juliet* perfected sword fighting through an eight-week stage combat training program.

The Theatre Department also organized the 3rd Annual International Arts Festival in April of 2018. The theme of the celebration was "What is Harmony" and people from throughout the UNIS community shared music, dance, visual art and drama in a variety of venues. At the end of the festival, the first-ever all-student producing team was formed to plan the 2019 festival.

In late May, UNIS was informed that the Tutorial House theatre program was selected to participate in the August 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival! Chosen through a competitive process that considered schools from throughout the United States, UNIS will be represented by 10 performers and three student designers.

# Film Director Stephen Frears Meets UNIS Students

IB Film students had the privilege of meeting with legendary British film director Stephen Frears (*Dangerous Liaisons, The Queen*) to discuss filmmaking and changes to the entertainment industry.





STILL VISUALARTS exhibition THE ARTISTS:

stand

THE CAELUM GALLERY March 6th: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7th: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m

EXHIBITION OPENING Tuesday, March 6, 2018

a better world

Five until Eight O'Clock



#### **UNIS Art Exhibition:** Stand Still

In early March of 2018, the T4 IB visual arts students curated their exhibitions at the Caelum Gallery, in the heart of Chelsea's art world. Each student showed the finest of his/her artistic endeavors with a requirement of 11 finished artworks. They collaborated on the design and layout, including naming the exhibition "Stand Still." The portfolios included sculptures, video, animation, oil paintings and collage, along with other innovative and interesting mediums. All of the artists spoke eloquently about their processes and themes. Many family and friends were in attendance, and the gallery was buzzing.

Exhibiting in Chelsea has been a significant addition to the art curriculum in recent years. It has added a level of sophistication and seriousness to the artworks, allowing the students to see the

work at its best. It has also elevated the IB to a new level. As a capstone project, it leaves our UNIS artists feeling pride in their achievements.

### 70th Anniversary Music Celebration

All the TH Ensembles joined together in one evening of Music-On on Monday, January 29, 2018. The two-part concert took place in the Sylvia Howard Fuhrman Theatre and the UNIS Cafe. We featured over 200 performers throughout the evening and demonstrated the breadth of

our music program. The TH String Camerata, Senior Chorus, Chamber Ensemble, MS Honors Choir, TH Wind Ensemble, and the TH Jazz Band all got a chance to shine and perform in celebration of this rare event.





#### **AAIE Music Performance at** the UN GA Hall and Marriott Marquis

The UNIS Music Department proudly played a key role in representing UNIS at the AAIE (Association for Advancement of Internation Education) Convention, attended by hundreds of international schools from all over the world. The MS Honors Choir and UNIS Senior Chorus performed at the opening ceremony in the General Assembly at the United Nations. They sang a piece in Swahili that emphasizes the phrase "Knowledge is Power!" The UNIS String Quartet performed at the main reception, and the TH Wind Ensemble closed out the ceremony at the Marriott Marquis. To round out the event, the UNIS Jazz Faculty performed for the final gala event.

### Middle School Honors Choir and Honors Band

The Middle School Honors Choir, M3/M4 Strings, and Honors Band performances on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 were the culmination of a year of extra rehearsals, hours of practicing, and dedicated work. The Choir traveled to the Neptune Performing Arts Center in New Jersey, and each group performed for a panel of distinguished judges. Our Choir and strings received a rating of "Excellent." Our band received a rating of "Superior." This spring, the festival is expanding to include the NPAC Ensembles, where the students will also perform for each other as well as for a panel of judges. We are looking forward to this exciting musical exchange!

# highlights | queens



#### **UN Day**

From start to finish joy radiated throughout the building! There were student performances, international lunches provided by the parents, and a video on the work of UNICEF to introduce the forthcoming Trick or Treat collection for our students. To complete the day, our M4 students led UN-themed workshops in the other classes. Our entire campus community filled the day with care and compassion. We affirmed our commitment to the United Nations and to creating A Better World!

#### World Children's Day

UNICEF invited students to participate in a 'children's takeover' at the UN Headquarters in New York on World Children's Day. UNIS M2 and M3 students from Queens and Manhattan participated at the ECOSOC Chamber on Monday, November 20, 2017.

There were opportunities for children around the world to "takeover" and tell their stories. This provided a unique opportunity for children from some of the world's most disadvantaged communities to express themselves at a global platform and advocate for children's issues to be on the global agenda.

#### **Green Rewards**

The Green Team's first annual Green Rewards crafts and goodie sale distributed trays loaded





with sweet treats and unique crafts for sale. Profits go to help support the environmental center and future sales.

### **Pennies for Patients**

The boxes are getting heavy and we want them even heavier!! Students are encouraged to continue to bring in pennies and other spare change all month to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's mission to cure children with leukemia and other blood-related cancers. This is UNIS Queens' 13th year participating in this program, and we continue to do so in memory of former UNIS Queens student, Michele Louis.

### May Day Celebration

Junior School students gathered on the field for our May Day Celebration. Student performances included the weaving of the ribbons around the maypole by our J4 students! Middle school students provided lively musical accompaniment. Following the celebration, M2 and M3 students presented their math projects in the gym. On Earth Day the Junior School will do spring planting in honor of the day.



# highlights | ATHLETICS



#### Middle School Sports Days

The Middle School Sports Days are a signature annual event filled with fun, joy, and good sportsmanship. Children and parents alike made it possible through our dedicated and enthusiastic parent volunteers with the guidance of our hardworking PE faculty.

### PE Student Led Conferences

The Student Led Conferences took place in Manhattan Gymnasium April 19th, 20th, and 22nd. An innovative and creative initiative, the PE Team created a space full of blended learning activities where the students were able to demonstrate their own learning experiences. The outcomes:

- Developed leadership skills
- Improved communication
- Developed self reflection
- Demonstrated independent work
- Self-evaluation, understand personal skills levels and how to improve them

# After School Athletics for Junior Schoolers

The Athletics department is responsible for organizing both interscholastic or school versus school and *after school* sporting opportunities at UNIS. Our after school program is designed to provide students with positive initial experiences in sport, and is informed by the long-term athlete development model, a sevenstage framework with a focus on participants' specific stages of development.

This initiative gives Junior School students the ability to participate in several after school sessions per week. Parents of J2-J4 students, for example, have the option of enrolling their children in taekwondo or basketball on Mondays, soccer or dance on Tuesdays, tennis on Wednesdays, and a 'modified games' session on Thursdays.



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## IN MEMORY OF:

In Memory of Our Parents, Grandparents and Great-Grandparents who advocated for peace. Dr. & Mrs. Shao

Phyllis Orlando Moore Natalie Moore

**Dorthy Roberts and Sylvia** Gordon Susan J. Tanenbaum

**Renato** Mr. Paolo Mastrolilli

#### Gloria and Marcos Gonzalez Gandolfi Luz Salcedo

**Elisabeth Fox** Ian M. Fox

**Robert Tucker** Jousha Tucker

Veronica Villanueva Ms. Consuelo Villanueva

## IN HONOR OF:

Junie Straus Mr. William & Mrs. Noriko Straus

Mrs. Kennedy Dr. & Mrs. Shao

The International and Diverse **Community and the Academic Rigor of the School.** Mr. & Mrs. Ikli

Maeve Brendan F. O'Brien

Giovina Mr. Paolo Mastrolilli

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Dr. and Mrs. Sylvester E. Rowe Solade Rowe

Dr. Honor Mrs. Burcin Rutherford

Queens Campus Ms. Maryam Kamali

Alison Kim Hyun J. Kim

**Rachel Kim** Hyun J. Kim

### WHERE THE CLASS OF 2018 IS ENROLLING – BY THE NUMBERS

United States (76) Australia (1) Israel (1) Panama (1)

- United Kingdom (17) Canada (9) Japan (2) Gap Year (6)
- Estonia (1) Germany (2) Netherlands (3) Military (2)

### UNITED STATES

Amherst College **Babson College** Bard College **Barnard** College **Bates College** Binghamton University (SUNY) Borough of Manhattan Comm. College (CUNY) Brandeis Universitv Brown University Carnegie Mellon University College of Staten Island (CUNY) Columbia University Cooper Union Cornell University **DePaul University** Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY) Fordham University

AUSTRALIA University of Canberra

**ESTONIA** University of Talin

#### **CANADA**

Concordia University McGill University McMaster University University of British Columbia University of Toronto

George Washington University Hamilton College Lafayette College Lehigh University Mount Holyoke College New York University Northeastern University Northwestern University Occidental College Pitzer College Princeton University Purchase College (SUNY) Reed College Rhode Island School of Design Sarah Lawrence College Skidmore College Smith College

Stevens Institute of Technology Stony Brook University (SUNY) Swarthmore College The New School University of California - Berkeley University of California - Davis University of California - Los Angeles University of California - San Diego University of Chicago University of Miami University of Pennsylvania University of Wisconsin - Madison Vassar College Virginia Military Institute Weslesyan University

#### GERMANY

Ludwig Maximillians Universitat Munchen Munich University of Applied Sciences

ISRAFI Technion Israel Institute of Technology

**JAPAN** Sophia University

#### **NETHERLANDS**

Erasmus Universitet Rotterdam Erasmus University College

#### PANAMA

Florida State University - Panama

#### UK

Bath Spa University London School of Economics University College London University of Birmingham University of Bristol University of Exeter University of Leeds University of Oxford University of Southampton University of St. Andrews

# treasurer's report

#### UNIS is committed to fiscal

sustainability and affordability via diligent and conservative financial management. We strive to fulfill our educational mission by offering outstanding academics, arts, and athletics at our Manhattan and Queens campuses. Our financial health and the generosity of our donors enables UNIS to attract and retain a world-class, dedicated faculty and a gifted and diverse student body.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, tuition comprised 94% of total revenue. UNIS' tuition for the 2017-2018 fiscal year increased by 3.3%. It was one of the lowest tuition increases in the last ten years. We continued our efforts to increase non-tuition revenue sources, such as gifts to the Annual Fund, as well as rental and fee opportunities to supplement this modest tuition increase.

We made major inroads in expense controls including administrative salaries and benefits, in order to focus resources on educational improvements, such as the comprehensive curriculum review in the areas of Math, English/Literacy, Science, and Humanities (MESH). To provide onsite training for faculty in all divisions, we nearly doubled the professional development budget.

Capital projects focused heavily on improvement of long-deferred maintenance in equipment on both campuses, to avoid major repairs in the future. Where possible, we leveraged outside sources of income such as insurance. Because of this disciplined approach to cost management and resource allocation, the school finished the fiscal year in a strong financial position.

Through the ongoing work of the Investment Sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees, the endowment continued to build on its performance from the prior year with a market value of \$20,620,220 as of June 30, 2018. This year, because of the disciplined budget management by the administration, the Board supported the decision to maintain all gains in the endowment, rather than designate the usual \$500,000 of income to operations. This will assist in growing the endowment in the coming years.

UNIS is grateful for the continued support of the Modern Language Department from the UN Member States, including the Sultanate of Oman, China, Germany, Italy and Spain. We look forward to more successes in language instruction.

Finally, we benefitted from strong donor

support among parents and alumni. Total giving increased by 9.6%. We hope to continue this growth to reduce reliance on tuition, and to provide financial aid to those students in need. Financial contributions make a very meaningful impact on UNIS' ability to innovate and enhance the educational experience for our students. The continuing generosity of parents, alumni, parents of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of UNIS affirms their awareness of the critical role of philanthropic gifts. As a result of the school's financial position and through the support of our community, UNIS was able to continue its \$1.5 million in financial aid assistance to our students.

We are very excited about all the new developments and achievements by UNIS in the 2017-2018 academic year. We are looking forward to more to come in the years ahead of us.

Alla Liberman Treasurer, Board of Trustees



"Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development."

Kofi Annan
United Nations Secretary-General

