

UNITED NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



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MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear UNIS Families and Friends,

It is our privilege to present the 2018-2019 UNIS Annual Report. This report highlights a number of UNIS accomplishments.

The year was marked by a fruitful and collaborative partnership between the Board of Trustees and the new Executive Director, fueled by a shared dedication to UNIS and its mission. It has been an incredible journey filled with unique opportunities and possibilities thanks to our dedicated community. As the School of the United Nations, it is clear that UNIS is imbued with the ideals of the UN and its goal of a more peaceful world.

Throughout the year, we have seen the strengthening of the relationship between UNIS and the UN. We began the year with a focus on 'Greening the Blue' to create a more sustainable future, both for our school and the world. This theme carried into our UN Day observance, which highlighted the commitment of both the UN and UNIS to creating a sustainable future. And as always, UN Day was also a joyful celebration of the diversity of UNIS. .

We welcomed both the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, and Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, to our Manhattan Campus. Both meetings provided a unique opportunity for our students to directly engage with the SG and DSG.

In the Spring, we attended the student-led UNIS-UN conference held in the United Nations General Assembly Hall. The conference focused on the international water crisis and showcased the intelligence, passion, and power of our young people. In the same space, we had the honor of attending the UNIS graduation, where we each had the privilege of addressing our wonderful students and community.

We look forward with excitement as we continue our partnership and strive to make UNIS the very best in educating global citizens who will contribute to making the world a better place.

Catherine Pollard
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dan Brenner, PhD
Executive Director



Students enjoy the UN Day parade.

Junior School Highlights

Assembly with SG

Junior School students had the opportunity to welcome Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, for an assembly on April 12th. The SG shared his hope for a more sustainable world and celebrated our students' achievements in their efforts toward "Greening the Blue." Students presented the SG with a gift, asked questions, and shared their knowledge and passion for helping to create a more sustainable planet.



Above & Below: The SG asks students questions during the JS & MS Assembly in the Manhattan Cafeteria.

JS Green Team

The Junior School Green Team is a group of student leaders that focus on environmental issues in our community. This year, the JS Green Team led the way in monitoring proper use of resources and waste management in the school. The team also organized and participated in different environmental programs both in school and in the city, including the MillionTreesNYC program. Two students from each J3 and J4 class were elected each term (Fall and Spring).

UN Day

Our community celebrated the 73rd birthday of the UN on Friday, October 19th. Our theme was "Greening the Blue," which represented our mission of shaping a better world as we continue to make the world more sustainable. Students, families, faculty, and staff dressed in outfits that represent their background, or a place that speaks to their heart. The Junior School celebrated diversity with a Parade of Nations, filled with multicolored flags of many countries, as well as hand drawn pictures and signs celebrating diversity and acceptance. International breakfasts were held in each class, highlighting spices and flavors from all over the world. We also operated a zero food waste principle to ensure nothing was wasted.

Following, the New York Department of Sanitation held an assembly and spoke to students about how to recycle correctly, and how to take care of the environment. Tut House 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.

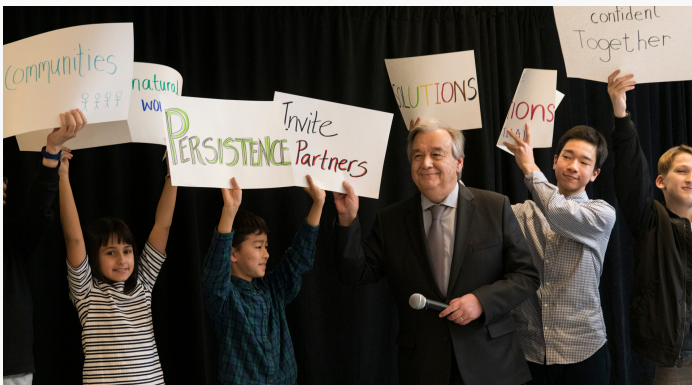


JS students celebrate UN Day.

Middle School Highlights

Assembly with SG

The M1 Honors Choir and Middle School Environmental Club joined the Junior School and welcomed Secretary-General. The student choir delighted the Secretary General with their voices. Two M4 members of the Environmental Club delivered speeches on the importance of sustainability practices while other members of the Club raised signs in the air promoting change. The students presented the SG with a welcome gift on behalf of the Middle School.



The SG and the MS Environmental Club students pose for a photo together.

M3 Guest Speaker

M3 students welcomed Afghan educator and Humanitarian and Women's Rights Champion, Shabana Basij-Rasikh. Bsaij-Rasikh shared her experience about growing up in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. Her inspiring story inspired our M3 students and helped encourage their desires to actively work toward making the world a better place.

M1 Living Museum

M1 students showcased their expertise of the civilization of Ancient Egypt with a breathtaking array of displays and presentations. These young historians followed up their presentations with a musical performance. Food was provided by parents and everyone enjoyed the celebration.

Fireside Chat with Deputy SG

On April 1st, Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and former Minister of Environment of Nigeria, participated in a panel discussion for M4 and T1 students, moderated by UNIS Board Chair Catherine Pollard. Other participants in the panel included: Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti (Brazil), Under-Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and former UN Permanent Representative of Brazil; Phumzile Gloria Mlambo-Ngcuka (South Africa), Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN-Women; and Atul Khare (India), Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support.

The discussion focused on challenges faced in the past, present, and future. Our M4 students were inspired to learn about how small actions can generate larger change in our communities and around the world.



Above: The Fireside Chat distinguished panel.

Below: DSG interacts with students while touring the school.

Middle School Highlights

MS Camps and Language Immersion Trips

Middle School Camps began in the Fall when our M3 group headed to Club Getaway in Connecticut; our M2s were away at Camp Greenkill for 2 nights in mid-April, and our M1s stayed at Camp Mason from May 1st-3rd. This UNIS tradition allowed for our MS students to be exposed to nature and develop life-skills through team building and problem solving exercises. Our students had the opportunity to socialize and bond with one another, as well as the beautiful natural surroundings.

M4 students traveled to Canada and Puerto Rico from April 28th - May 4th for a cultural and linguistic experience in their Language B area of study. Students improved their language fluency, while having the opportunity to enjoy the cultures of Canada and Puerto Rico.



Above & Below: MS students enjoy time in Montreal, Canada on their cultural immersion trip.



Above & Below: MS students enjoy time in Puerto Rico on their cultural immersion trip.



Tutorial House Highlights

Assembly with SG

T3 and T4 students had the special opportunity to attend an assembly with Secretary-General, H.E. António Guterres. The SG offered insight about his personal journey thus far, his current role, and the role of the United Nations. He spoke about his current involvement with several international affairs.

Our TH students were able to engage with Mr. Guterres by asking a range of questions. Mr. Guterres thoughtfully answered and provided guidance about how as individuals and members of society, we can continue to move forward and help create a better world. Our students left the assembly feeling enthusiastic and inspired.



The SG addresses TH students in the Sylvia Howard Fuhrman Theater.

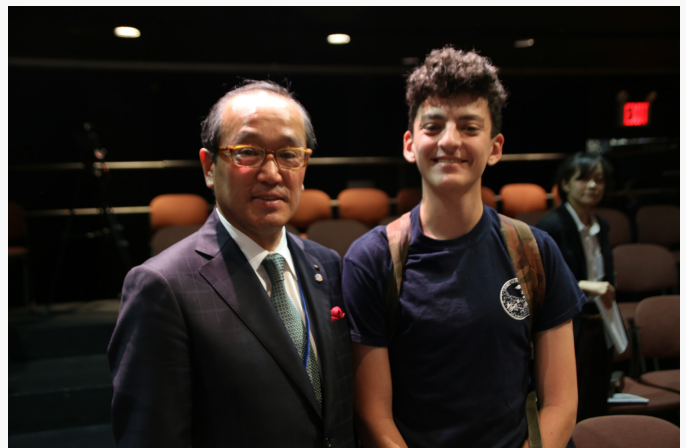
TH Speakers

In the fall, 40 T3 and T4 students attended an address by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, at the UN. Our students were able to hear from one of the highest level officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran as he spoke and answered questions on the issue of "Multilateralism and the Iran Nuclear Deal."

TH Speakers Continued

Former President of the General Assembly, H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, spoke with Tutorial House students. He came to UNIS to explain the role of the Assembly and to answer student's questions. Further, T3 students had the chance to engage in dialogue Director of the International Center for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, Beatrice Fihn. Fihn was the recipient of the 2017 Noble Peace Prize, and thus this was an exceptional experience for our students.

In April, the Mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui (who is also the Secretary-General of the global Mayors for Peace organization) visited UNIS, accompanied by a few Japanese high school students. The Mayor spoke to a T3 Assembly regarding the importance of civil society, peace initiatives, and nuclear disarmament, before participating to a panel discussion with T2 students. TH students in IB Global Politics also had the unique opportunity to meet with the Director of the ACLU Trone Center for Justice and Equality, Jeffrey Robinson. Mr. Robinson discussed global politics and humanities with the TH students.



Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima pauses for a photo with a TH student.

Tutorial House Highlights

Model UN

Model UN is one of the largest and most active clubs in the Tutorial House. Throughout the year, TH students participated in several Model UN events in the region, including a UNIS held conference, and conferences at Yale, Columbia, and Harvard. Many UNIS students were recognized for the quality of their work by multiple awards during these conferences. The UNIS conference was the fifth of its kind, and included keynote speaker H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN.



UNIS students attend the Model UN Conference at Columbia University.



UNIS students attend the Model UN Conference at Johns Hopkins University.

UNIS-UN

UNIS-UN is a student run conference with the goal of providing an intellectually enriching experience for their peers from around the world. The goal is to promote globalism and cross cultural exchange. For the past 42 years, the UNIS-UN conference has been held in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters. Students invite expert speakers and students from 5 continents to engage with a contemporary global issue. This year's conference topic was Ripple Effect: The Water Crisis. As water is central to the wellbeing of our people and planet, the conference attendees examined and discussed the role of water in relation to sustainability and geopolitics. The two central debates were, industrialized countries have a greater responsibility for sustainable development, and climate migration will be the biggest threat to world wide political stability.



The UNIS-UN Conference in the United Nations General Assembly Hall.

Queens Highlights

UN Day

The Queens Community came together for its annual UN Day Celebration on Friday, October 19. The Gym was standing room only as the classes and musical ensembles performed. In attendance, as well as family and friends, was former UNISparent, Dr. Neeta Jain, Democratic District Assembly Leader for District 26 and New York State Assemblyman for District 24 David Weprin. Following the assembly international luncheons were held in each of the classrooms with parents providing dishes from their respective home countries

Sailing Trip

M4 Students went on a Sailing Adventure at the Water Front Club, Oyster Bay, in Nassau County, New York. The Sailing Activity was part of their Career Projects' Applications in Math class. The M4 sailors attended a full workshop on measuring wind angles, wind speed and buoyancy. Immediately after the hands-on workshop, the sailors headed to the pier and boarded a launch which transported them to the sailboats where they hoisted sails, directed and steered the sailboats and measured the wind angle and were precise and efficient! This was one of many amazing experiences our students enjoy and are able to apply the theoretical knowledge into practice outside the classroom!

UN International Day of Peace

The Queens campus celebrated the UN International Day of Peace by hosting assemblies and various in-class activities. M4 students led activities during an assembly in the gym. Our students focused on what it means to be global citizens and what peace means to them.

May Day

Queens held their annual May Day celebration as it is a tradition in Queens that goes back to the beginnings of UNIS. The Junior School students performed songs and dances, accompanied by Middle School musicians. The whole community turned out for this festive occasion and the highlight was the J4 May Pole Dance. The grand conclusion, the weaving of the ribbons of the May Pole, was completed by the J4 class as the senior JS class.



M4 Students on the Sailing Trip.



The J4 Class celebrates May Day by weaving colorful ribbons around the pole.

Arts Highlights

Visual Arts

Fourteen IB Visual Arts students curated their IB Diploma show as a professional exhibition titled, "Combobulated, at the Caelum Chelsea Gallery. Many members of the UNIS community attended.



The IB Visual Arts promotional poster for the show 'Combobulated.'

Middle School visual art students' curriculum incorporates the Sustainable Development Goals, and some fantastic artwork has been generated from their projects. A school favorite is their SDG murals throughout the hallways of UNIS. Mimicking the style of artist Keith Haring, teams of students create tape murals focusing on one of the SDGs that they feel most strongly about.



Students pose with their SDG mural in the UNIS stairwell.

Theatre

The Theatre Department's productions were all successes. The Junior School's rendition of Flat Stanley wowed crowds. The Middle School's production of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory transformed our theatre into a chocolate factory. And, the Tutorial House production of Grease took audiences back to the 1950s.

The Tutorial House Theatre Ensemble performed an original play at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the largest arts festival in the world!



MS students perform Willy Wonka in the Theater.

Musical Performances

Our musicians practice and rehearse year round for various musical performances. A few highlights include our Middle School Honors Choir performance at the United Nations at the International Mother Language Day Celebration and UNIS Jazz Night featuring special guests and performers from MS, TH, and faculty!

UNIS International Arts Festival

The Festival is a three-week celebration of our community's vibrant artistry and our cultural diversity. The theme for 2019 was Truth. The collaborative spirit of UNIS is on full display as students, staff, parents, and teachers share music, dance, film and visual arts in a variety of languages and traditions.

Athletics Highlights

Interscholastic Moments

During 2018-19, over 300 UNIS students participated in an interscholastic activity. UNIS students and teams were quite successful.

- Sixteen UNIS students across 5 sports (soccer, basketball, tennis, volleyball, and softball) were named as 'All-League' athletes.
- Two UNIS teams (Girls Varsity Volleyball and Boys Varsity Tennis) were recognized with NYCAL 'Team Sportsmanship' awards.
- In October, UNIS celebrated a NYCAL Championship for both Boys Varsity Soccer and Boys Junior Varsity Soccer.
- Aidan McKenna and Sacha Maes were named as League MVPs in their respective sports.
- The UNIS Girls basketball program blossomed with a spectacular year for the Girls JV Team who were NYCAL finalists.
- The Athletics Department continued its recruitment of high-quality, experienced team coaches, with several notable hires, including a former Team USA player and a collegiate national champion.



Boys Varsity Soccer before the State Finals.

After School Sports

At the conclusion of the 2018/19 school year, a dedicated after school sports coordinator was appointed,

UNIS' after-school sport program achieved strong numbers (over 200 students each 'trimester) for activities including Archery, Dance, Gymnastics, Basketball, Taekwondo, Soccer and Tennis; We continued our partnership with Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, which has expanded to include offerings for Tut House students in '18-19.

School Sports Days

Both campuses held their annual School Sports days as they are a tradition filled with great fun and sportsmanship. The days are a success due to the great dedication of our students, parent volunteers, and PE faculty.



Above & Below: Students and Faculty enjoy Sports Days.

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Where the class of 2019 is enrolled

By the numbers

United States (79)

Netherlands (3)

China (2)

Australia (1)

Malta (1)

Canada (10)

Spain (3)

Germany (2)

Ireland (1)

Gap Year (3)

United Kingdom (5)

France (2)

Armenia (1)

Japan (1)

Military (3)

United States

Albright College
Babson College
Bard College
Barnard College
Bentley University
Carnegie Mellon
Case Western Reserve
Colorado College
Columbia University
Cornell University
CUNY - Baruch College
Duke University
Elon University
Fordham University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Lafayette College
Macalester College
New York University
Northeastern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Rhode Island School of Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Skidmore College
Stony Brook University
SUNY/Albany
Syracuse University
The New School
Tufts University
Tulane University
University at Buffalo (SUNY)
University of California - Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Cruz

University of Maryland
University of Miami
University of San Francisco
Vassar College
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Canada

Concordia University
McGill University
University of Toronto

United Kingdom

University College London
Queen Mary University
University of Bath
University of Liverpool
University of the Arts London

Netherlands

Delft University
University College Utrecht
University of Groningen

Spain

IE University Madrid
Universidad de Navarra
Universidad Europea de Madrid

France

American University of Paris
SciencesPo - Menton

China

NYU Shanghai

Germany

Bard College Berlin
Kultusministerkonferenz

Armenia

Foundation Université Français en Arménie

Australia

Monash University

Ireland

Trinity College

Japan

Sophia University

Malta

Queen Mary University /London Medical School

Gap Year

Military

Treasurer's Report

UNIS is committed to fiscal sustainability and affordability via diligent and conservative financial management. We are determined to fulfill our educational mission efficiently while offering outstanding academics, arts and athletics at two campuses in Manhattan and Queens. Our financial health and the generosity of our donors enables UNIS to attract and retain a world-class, committed faculty and an extremely gifted and diverse student body.

For the fiscal year ended June 30 2019, tuition comprised 95% of total revenue. UNIS's tuition for the 2018-2019 fiscal year increased by 4%. We continue to be committed to lower tuition increases than what we have experienced over the last decade, delivering a sub-5% tuition increase for the second year in the row. We continued our efforts to increase non-tuition revenue sources, such as gifts to the Annual Fund and rental and fee opportunities to supplement this modest tuition increase.

We have continued to make improvements in our expense controls and improve overall efficiencies of running the school. We have been allocating resources to educational improvements, such as shared methods of classroom management and observation, professional development for our faculty and staff as well as upgrading our school information system to a more cohesive integrated platform.

Capital projects focused heavily on improvement of long-deferred maintenance in equipment on both campuses, to avoid major repairs in the future. Where possible, outside sources of income such as insurance were leveraged. Because of this disciplined approach to cost management and resource allocation, the school finished the fiscal year in a very 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 \$22,052,304 as of June 30, 2019.

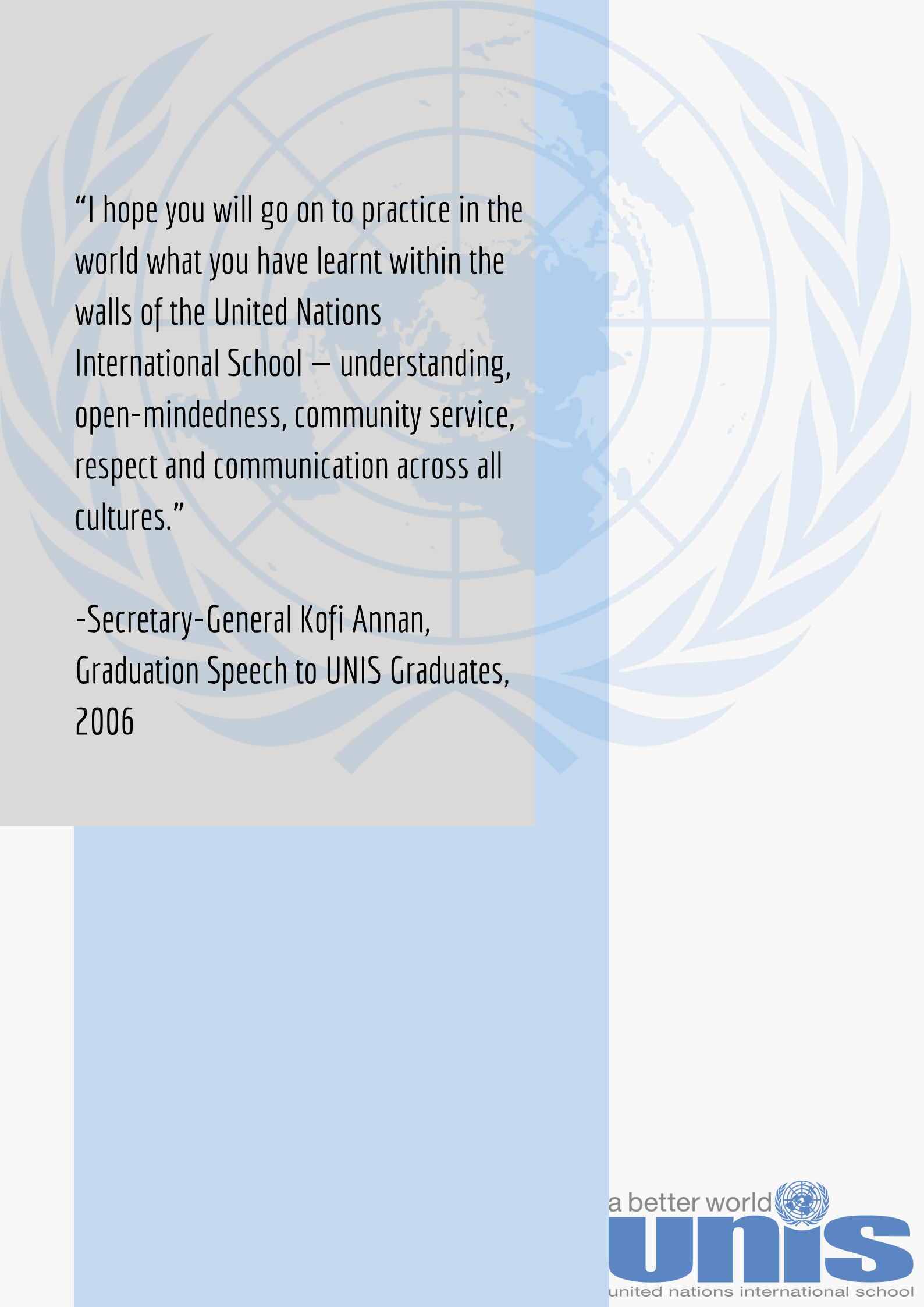
UNIS is grateful for the continued support of the Modern Language Department from several UN Member States, including the Sultanate of Oman, China, Germany, Italy and Spain. We look forward to our continued success in language instruction.

Finally, we benefitted from strong donor support among parents and alumni. 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's 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 \$1.7 million in financial aid assistance to our students.

We are very excited about all the new developments and achievements by UNIS in the 2018-2019 academic year. We are looking forward to more to come in the years ahead of us.

Alla Liberman
Treasurer, Board of Trustees



“I hope you will go on to practice in the world what you have learnt within the walls of the United Nations International School — understanding, open-mindedness, community service, respect and communication across all cultures.”

-Secretary-General Kofi Annan,
Graduation Speech to UNIS Graduates,
2006