

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Fall 2019 Magazine | Back to School Edition



Executive Director's Message

Dear UNIS Community,

As I begin my second year as Executive Director I am filled with joy and excitement because of who we are as a school/community and what we stand for as it is embodied in our mission. With the General Assembly coming to a close, and the complexities of the world stage, we take great pride in providing our students a safe, nurturing environment that emphasizes rigor within an international education.

Our school continues to be like no other. We enjoy a special relationship with the United Nations and all that it represents in its diplomatic community and in its sustainable goals.

As the year unfolds we will be going through the re-accreditation process with the Council for International Schools, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the International Baccalaureate Program. These organizations will examine who we are at our core, including a thorough examination of our academic programs. I am confident we will fare well. This process will be yearlong and once completed we will share the results.

As I reflect back on my first year I can see now that our richness in cultural diversity combined with the caring relationships that are forged between students, their classmates, and the adults in the building creates a truly remarkable environment. It is much of what makes UNIS so unique and a place I know I will never take for granted.

Please enjoy the first UNIS magazine of the year. I hope it captures the spirit of the opening days of 2019-2020.

Dan Brenner



The mosaic wall in the hallway of Stairway B is from 2005. Junior School Art teacher, Anne Dohna, worked with the entire Junior School to create the artwork. Each student and faculty member made a map on a tile, which was then pieced together by Anne & installed by a team of tile setters.

Message from the Board Chair



The Board of Trustees started the school year by getting together for the yearly Board retreat on Saturday, 7 September 2019. It was an opportunity to welcome our four new Trustees: Agnes Bamuwanye, Fernando Gutierrez Eddy, Stephen Margetts, and Carol Sirou Roux, all of them UNIS parents. The retreat is an opportunity for all Board members to review the fundamental principles of what it means to be a Trustee and discuss the history and background of UNIS and its unique relationship with the United Nations. It is also when the Board discusses the organization of work and brainstorms on the strategic priorities for this school year. We will continue to make sure the school provides an excellent international education and will focus on the long-term plan to improve the school's infrastructure and facilities to support the academic needs. I can testify that there was great enthusiasm from all trustees about the work ahead to advance UNIS.

We are delighted to see the improvements the School has made on the UNIS website. For information on the Board, please look under Governance, where, for example, you can find the bios of both new and continuing Trustees. I have heard many calls for better communication among the School's constituencies, and I hope you will find the UNIS Board of Trustees is more visible to the community on the revamped website.

We already held our first Board meeting on 19 September 2019, where we had the opportunity to welcome and be introduced to Amanda Dubois, President, UNIS Parents Association, Abdul Sheir, President UNIS Staff Association and Marcela Rosen, Middle School Staff Association representative, and Won-Jae Chang and Ning Chang President and Vice President of the UNIS Student Council.

Dr. Brenner has his new Leadership team onboard and we are looking forward to a successful and productive year.

Welcome New Trustees

UNIS is proud to announce the newest members of our Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the fulfillment of the mission of UNIS and for policies relating to the conduct and management of the affairs of the School. Members of the Board are appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Board is composed of eighteen Trustees. The School also recognizes members of the UNIS Community, the United Nations and the Member States and Observers of the United Nations as Honorary Trustees of UNIS.



Dr. Agnes
Bamuwamye



Fernando
Gutierrez Eddy



Stephen Margetts



Carol Sirou

Board of Trustees 2019-2020

Catherine Pollard , Board
Chair

Joan W. McDonald

Agnes Bamuwamye

Anita Batisti

Maike de Langen,

Pierre Alexandre de Looz

Lena Dissin

Felipe Dorregaray

Ambassador Burhan Gafoor

Caryn Groce

Fernando Gutierrez Eddy

Alla Liberman

Stephen Margetts

Jean-Victor Nkolo

Roberto Pagan

Carol Sirou

Udai Tambar

Yvonne Tsang

Welcome New Faculty & Students

New students by division

Junior School 147	Middle School 84	Tutorial House 47	Queens 19
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Total # of UNIS Students: 1,615

New faculty by division

Junior School 11	Middle School 11	Tutorial House 12	Queens 1
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Total # of UNIS Faculty: 355

New to our Leadership Team:

Chief Academic Officer: Dr. Jennifer Amos

Chief Financial Officer: Michael Feeney

Director of Human Resources: Andrew Byrne

Director of Arts: Kim Bruno

Middle School Vice Principal: Camelia Perez



A few members of our Leadership Team on the first day of school. Left to right: Dr. Dan Brenner, Dr. Jennifer Amos, Andrew Byrne, Salvador Uy

What's new in Academics?

UNIS Academic Structure



From left to right: Dr. Jennifer Amos, Chief Academic Officer; Sochenda Samreth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Audra Robb, PK-8 Literacy/Humanities Curriculum Specialist; Amy Morris, PK-7 Math/Science Curriculum Specialist

This fall, our new academic structure has helped to keep the work going strong with designing and refining curriculum, enhancing our scope and sequence to ensure students share common experiences and are ready for their next steps, and developing assessments that align with inquiry-based instruction. We are actively pursuing our next steps in this work, which is already rolling forward into classrooms.

Our Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Jennifer Amos, oversees and directs the implementation of all facets of the academic program design and is working to strengthen overt connections to the mission of the United Nations. This work includes setting curricular, instructional and assessment goals for the school in order to ensure continued improvement, providing professional development for teachers across both campuses, and assessing the effectiveness of our instructional materials and methodologies.

Sochenda Samreth, our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provides support in planning, developing, maintaining, and evaluating the UNIS curriculum, as well as our instructional practices. This work includes directing the development and implementation of new programs, making recommendations for continued improvement, and overseeing UNIS student assessment programs. In partnership with all divisions and both campuses, she works to ensure consistent educational experiences for all students and that teachers feel best prepared to meet the ever-changing needs of students.

New to the team this year are Amy Morris, our PK-8 Math/Science Curriculum Specialist, and Audra Robb, our PK-8 Literacy/Humanities Curriculum Specialist. Both have extensive experience in coaching teachers and teams and developing standards-aligned curriculum. In working closely with classroom teachers, we are already making great connections and supporting the inquiry and advancement of the team.

Kim Bruno is our Director of Arts. She will be working with our theatre, visual arts, and film teachers to enhance and align our program PK-12.

Paco Barba Morán continues in his role as Director of Modern Languages, overseeing all facets of instruction in the eight languages offered in this department and coordinating with the work of the English Department as well.

Our Director of Athletics, Guy Evans, oversees our athletic teams, including assigning coaches and developing schedules for games and practice sessions.

Our Physical Education Team Leader, Dan O'Connor, oversees all facets of our Physical Education program, including aligning and refining our PK-12 curriculum to ensure each child is building skills and comfort with a healthy and active lifestyle.

We have also redesigned the role of our JS Grade Level Team Leaders, allowed for more cohesion across the middle and high schools through M3-T4 MESH area Team Leaders, and created a PK-12 ELL Team Leader position to further the work of this important team.

To support our use of technology in the classroom, our Academic Technology Coordinators, Francesca Zammarano, Thea Khalifa, and Sandra Lipkind at each division, help to facilitate this work.

The academic team is looking forward to a great year and moving our work forward at UNIS.

Summer Institute 2019



103 teachers participated
representing our 3 divisions & both campuses

Outcomes:

- MS Math units: all new M1, M2, M3, and M4
 - Scope and sequence to support the increase of instructional time for Math in MS (7th period added in M1, M2, M3 and M4).
- MS Science: all new M2, M3 and M4 science units.
- TH Science: new T1 Science courses with balanced of Biology, Physics and Chemistry.
- TH Humanities: new T1 and T2 Humanities courses (integrated social studies instead of world history only).



& on our campuses?

This summer was busy for our facilities team, and the work continues as we are making improvements to both campuses.

Manhattan



Construction in the old Business Office suite, creating a new classroom.



The new Business Office suite situated in the back of the building.

- The business office was moved to a new location - continue past the elevators and make a right.
- An additional classroom is currently being built where the Business Office used to be due to increased numbers in JA.
- There is new flooring on the third floor, in the hallways and in the English area.
- The administrative office suite has been renovating, allowing for space optimization via office subdivisions.

Queens

- The outdoor quiet space has been renovated into an outdoor classroom.
- There is new flooring in two classrooms.
- The guard booth has been replaced.
- We are starting work to replace the fencing surrounding the campus to allow for continued security, but bringing a more pleasant feel within the campus.



Students attend a presentation on climate action in the new outdoor classroom.

...& our online presence?

Our relaunch of www.unis.org is complete. We hope you find the new website easier to navigate and more enjoyable to use! Be sure to click through some of our favorite features, such as the UNIS timeline on the homepage, which highlights UNIS history since our founding in 1947.



Our IT team is continuing our Veracross roll out. If you experience any difficulties or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out .

Email: veracross@unis.org

Phone: 212-584-3138

First Day of School





Upcoming Events

UN Day Celebration | Friday, October 18

October Break | Monday, October 21 - Friday, October 25

Parent-teacher conferences | Wednesday November 6 from 5:00-8:00 PM,
Thursday & Friday, November 7 & 8 from 8:30 AM -3:00 PM

Human Rights Symposium | Saturday, November 16

Thanksgiving Break | Wednesday, November 27 - Friday, November 29

PA Cultural Event: Moroccan Night | Saturday, December 7

Mock Model UN Conference | Sunday, December 8

Junior School Talent Show | Saturday, December 14

For more events & updates, please check unis.org/about-unis/calendars.



