

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Winter 2019-2020 Edition



Executive Director's Message



Dear UNIS Families and Friends,

In this time of uncertainty due to the Coronavirus, we are devoting significant effort and energy to ensure that our children are safe. That being said, this is also an opportunity to pause, reflect, and appreciate our wonderful community.

This Winter Magazine highlights many of the events that have taken place throughout this season. The pictures tell the story. Beginning with one of our most cherished events, UN Day to our recent UNIS Gala, it is important to acknowledge the rich diversity of our school.

Thank you to the entire UNIS community on the great success of our UNIS Gala. The highpoint of the evening's festivities was the incredible performance by our Camerata String Orchestra. Their performance encapsulated the spirit that is part of the DNA of our school. Thank you to all who bid, donated, volunteered, and attended this event. Our community's passion for UNIS is clear.

The theme of our gala was Building a Better World, and in this edition of the magazine we have included information on our building plans for the future of UNIS. We are committed to addressing the needs of our students and community, and are very excited for what the future months and years will bring.

Please enjoy this Winter Edition of our magazine and have a safe and healthy Spring Break.

Dan Brenner

Message from the Board Chair



Dear members of the UNIS community,

On behalf of the UNIS Board of Trustees, I am writing to wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2020, and to share with you some highlights of what the Board has been doing since the start of the school year.

We find ourselves not only at the beginning of a year, but the beginning of a new decade. In keeping with its mandate, the Board must look at the long-term strategy and mission of the School. Many of the issues the Board is currently discussing touch on the future, and ensuring that UNIS continues to deliver an international education that is exceptional in its academic rigor, and unique in its reflection of United Nations ideals.

This year UNIS must adopt a new strategic plan, since we are now approaching the end of the current “Vision 2020” plan adopted in 2015. This is a time to assess how the School did in terms of meeting the goals set five years ago, absorb lessons learned and, most importantly, put on our collective “thinking caps” and define our goals for the next few years. The Board has started this work through its Strategic Planning Committee, and we will count on input from the UNIS community as the process continues this spring.

To buttress our educational promise, and working closely with the Executive Director, we are also setting a course to revitalize the current physical space of our now half-century old Manhattan campus, with a vision for a more efficient, attractive and sustainable learning environment. Mindful of lessons learned from the past, now is the time to make a significant investment in the school infrastructure. While timing and pace of improvements will depend on fundraising, we must make the School fit for the future. In reaching out for support, we also see this as an opportunity to heighten the visibility and meaning of UNIS among Member States, as the United Nations marks its 75th anniversary with an emphasis on youth and the future. I understand Dr. Brenner has already briefed faculty and parents on this project, and we will continue to keep you informed on developments.

This brings me to another subject: communication. You may have wondered: “Well, what does the Board really do?”. To increase transparency, we have taken advantage of the School’s redesigned website to enhance the Board web page. Under the “Governance” tab, the Board information page, accessible to the UNIS community, now offers a description of the role of the Board, short summaries of Board meetings, reports of committees, financial statements and, recently added, the report of the Board of Trustees for the school year 2018-2019.

I feel immensely proud to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees, and never cease to be impressed with the unique character and vibrancy of the School. I know my fellow trustees share this sentiment. I look forward to continuing our important work in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,
Catherine Pollard

Building a Better World: Future Plans for UNIS



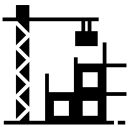
The UNIS building was built in 1974 and is in desperate need of renovations. We are committed to addressing the needs of the school building by creating new 21st century learning spaces. Our goals are to:



Create additional classrooms and community space to accommodate 1600 students between both campuses



Utilize natural light and sustainability in classrooms with flexible seating



Maximize existing, under leveraged spaces

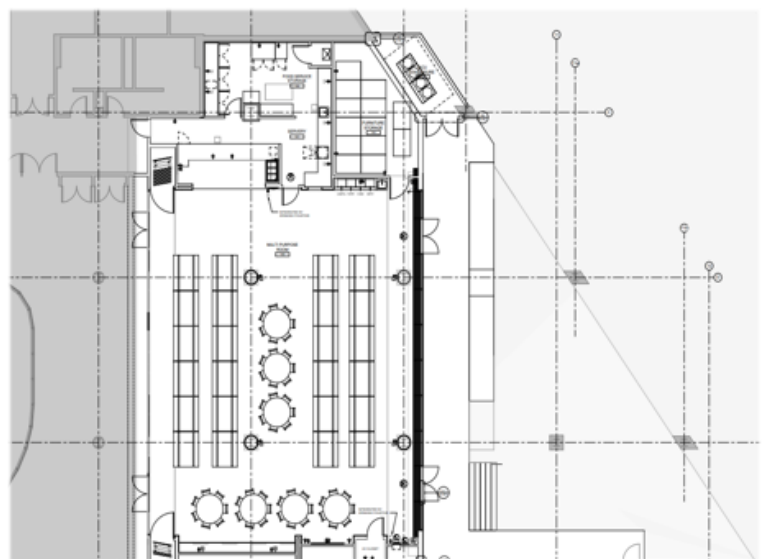
Phase I: The Multi-Purpose Room

The multipurpose room will serve as a flexible space, utilizing easily, movable furniture. It will also be equipped with the technology necessary for meetings and student activities. This new room will provide space for:

- Junior School Lunch
- Meetings, during the day and after school
- Physical Education classes
- After school activities

Building During Summer 2020

- Architect secured
- Construction Manager engaged
- Drawings complete
- Bid awarded
- Fully funded (\$5 million)



Future Plans for UNIS: Phase II & III

Phase II: The Global Learning Center, Renovation of 3rd Floor

The Global Learning Center provides us with the opportunity to re imagine the current library program as a Global Learning Center. This space will reclaim the current courtyard reducing the building envelope, allowing for improved efficiency. The space will:

- Have a central location in the building
- Provide 8 new classrooms (increasing current teaching space by 15-18%)
- Connect the 3rd and 4th floor learning spaces, allowing for ease of access for MS and TH students
- Allow for classrooms to utilize natural light
- Be technologically advanced

Project linked to fundraising, goal start date:
Summer 2021 (may be pushed to Summer 2022)

Project cost: \$25 million

Phase III: Full Renovation of 4th Floor including Rooftop Repair

The 4th floor renovation will allow for a reconstructed floor plan with a logical flow. The space will include:

- 8 additional, flexible classrooms
- All new science labs (4 more labs than our current space)
- All new furniture
- Technologically advanced designs

The roof repair will allow for a new roof to be installed, reclaiming playground space. The renovation will also include:

- A replacement of the bubble's 'skin'
- A new mechanical system for the bubble
- Updates to the fire alarm and sprinkler systems
- Updates to the HVAC system

Project linked to fundraising, goal start date:
Summer 2022 (may be pushed to Summer 2023)

Project cost: \$20 million

Project Funding

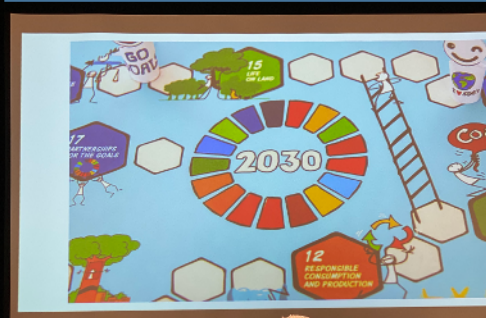
- \$12 million raised (\$10 million from a generous gift from the Country of Oman)
- Three tiered approach: Member states of the UN, Foundations, UNIS Community
- This was the theme of our 2020 Gala: Building a Better World

UN Day 2019

UN Day is always one of our favorite days of the year and this year was no different. It was a joyous day celebrating our diversity, shared humanity, and connection to the United Nations. Please enjoy some of our favorite moments!



UN Day 2019



Food & Toiletry Drive

UNIS collected food to donate to City Harvest and toiletries to donate to Community of Hope Homeless Outreach. Toiletries were packed into gift bags decorated by students and handed out at the Community of Hope Soup Kitchen, where they also worked to serve a meal. The activities engaged the whole UNIS community from those who donated goods, to the parents and students who sorted collections, packaged gift bags and worked in the soup kitchen, and faculty who used the event to teach about issues of homelessness, food insecurity, food waste and the logistics of collecting goods to deliver to others.



Morocco at UNIS

We were transported from UNIS to the heart of Morocco during this year's PA cultural event: Morocco at UNIS! The night was filled with live music, delicious food, our very own bazaar, a fashion show, and many crafts. It was a wonderful occasion thanks to all those involved.



MOROCCO
at UNIS

Winter Concerts

The Winter Season is always busy for our performing Arts students. This winter we had two Middle School and Tut House concerts (choral and instrumental), four Junior School concerts, and a Queens concert!



UNIS Queens students perform at their winter concert.



Junior School students pose for a photo during one of their Winter Concerts.

Carnegie Hall

Since 2011, UNIS has participated in the Festival of Orchestras Concert at Carnegie Hall, highlighting the musical achievement of several independent private schools around New York City. UNIS had the privilege of hosting the festival this year, and the program featured the premier of new works by UNIS faculty members and renowned Jazz musician, Michael Fahie. Tut House and Middle School students from the Wind Ensemble, Strings Ensemble, and Jazz Band performed on the historic stage on January 26th.



UNIS Human Rights Conference



The UNIS Human Rights club successfully hosted its 22nd annual Conference at UNIS and UNHQ (UN Headquarters) on January 23 and 24, 2020. The topic was 'Beyond Housing: Education, Gentrification, Climate Change'.

On Thursday January 23rd, the conference opened with a welcome message from student organizers and our Executive Director, Dr. Dan Brenner. The audience comprised of T1 students and a variety of students from NYC schools and the Carol Baur school from Mexico. We were pleased to have Ms. Carmelyn Malalis, NYC Commissioner for Human Rights present to students as the Keynote speaker who gave an overview of the many functions of their office along with specific information relevant to this year's topic. The segment concluded with a cultural dance showcase performed by the visiting students from Mexico. The rest of that afternoon, students attended workshops- some student led and others from outside experts.

Day two of the conference began with a powerful message from Ms. Dorie Hagler, a photojournalist and US Census Bureau official. It was refreshing listening to her because of how she engaged the audience both as a private citizen/ journalist, as-well as her role working for the Federal government. Later in the afternoon, student organizers hosted a panel discussion with four guests, who shared their personal stories related to homelessness. Each speaker was captivating and inspirational. They challenged students to raise their voice to address youth based issues and concerns. Towards the end of the program, all attending students interacted with one another to collaborate and work on producing a variety of PSA poster messages they created in small mixed groups. The conference culminated with (some) students taking a tour of the UN.

Written by: UNIS Human Rights Club



UN 75: Youth in the Driving Seat

Over 80 UNIS students from the Middle School, Tutorial House, and Queens Campus had the opportunity to attend the UN75 Inaugural Launch Event with the Secretary-General at the United Nations.

The event was titled "Youth in the Driving Seat" and helped to kick off the biggest ever global conversation on shaping our future in honor of the UN's 75th anniversary.

The event included a panel of six Columbia University students and recent alum; they were asked questions by the Secretary-General about how our youth view the future and provided advice from the younger generation's perspective. Topics varied from Climate Change, technology, equality, and many more intriguing subjects. The panelists provided insightful answers about how we can help create a better world, and included UNIS Alumna, Jahan Rifai, Class of 2014. We were very proud to see Jahan represent UNIS in the panel!



UNIS Gala: Building a Better World

Our UNIS Gala was a wonderful evening filled with spirit and commitment to our school! To see all photos from the event, please visit our UNIS Flickr (if you are having trouble finding the Flickr, please access via our website).



Upcoming Events*

Monday, March 23- Friday, March 27

Monday, March 30 - Friday, April 3:

Spring Break (No Classes)

*Please be sure to stay up to date on all UNIS communications as our future calendar dates and events may change due to the progression of the Coronavirus.

Need to contact a Principal?

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Queens: Barbara Kennedy

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#UNISproud. Parents, please keep tagging us in your UNIS social media posts, so we can enjoy smiles like this one!

