



Message from our Executive Director, Dr. Dan Brenner



Dear UNIS Community,

Oh what a year it has been. One we will never forget. This edition of our Magazine focuses on the Spring. Rather than spend time writing about events, we are memorializing these past several months with pictures that speak more than words.

This is an overview of the many occurrences, both positive and negative. You will see our interaction with the Secretary-General, a review of the many Masterclasses, a celebration of the Class of 2020, and more.

Best of all, you will see the indomitable spirit of a student body that performed theatrically, musically, artistically, and in the classroom without missing a beat. You will also see an impressive list of colleges and universities our graduates will attend as a result of their hard work and successes in the IB program.

This has been an incredible Spring. I hope you enjoy this UNIS magazine that enables us to remember it fondly (of course in the context of a Spring like no other!)

Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Best,

Dan





Message from the Board Chair, Ms. Catherine Pollard

We started the New Year and the New Decade with a very positive outlook towards the future. The Board began preparing for the new strategic plan – looking forward to the focus for the School over the next several years.

Then life took a dramatic turn for us all: UNIS students, faculty, administration, our Executive Director, the Board and all those connected with the UNIS family, and for everyone around the world.

In March, I think it is fair to say the world we had known in recent years took a 360-degree turn. We have since then as a community had to learn to learn, teach, manage, organize, and work daily with a "new normal," in many cases isolated from friends and family. Our IT skills have improved immensely as we have been forcibly planted in a constant virtual world of computer screens and other devices. People have stepped up and showed resilience in this new environment. But I think we all miss the face-to-face interaction and I do look forward once again to having social proximity rather than distancing, once it is safe to do so.

The Board's work has progressed well, in spite of COVID-19, and we are proceeding with formulating the new strategic plan for the next five years despite only interacting on line. We appreciated very much the great response from the UNIS community to the survey, and thank you for the valuable feedback. The Board has also focused on a review of all the Board policies to ensure they are updated and meet today's needs of the School.

Dr Brenner is looking at the options for the new School year. This will of course very much depend on COVID-19 and when it is appropriate for us all to come out of "hibernation." I am convinced that once we re-emerge into the "new world" we will all have learned many lessons of what is truly important and what is not, whether it be related to school, home or work.

As you may know, the Secretary-General António Guterres virtually spoke to the UNIS community on May 29 and, in particular, to the Graduating Class of 2020. We really appreciate the Secretary-General taking time out of his busy schedule, which, as you can imagine, is more demanding than ever at this time in our world.

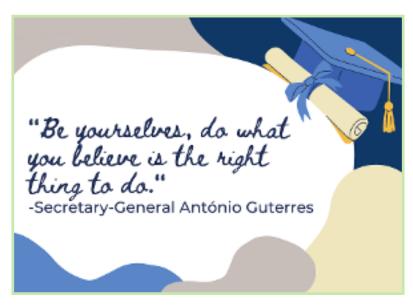
Wishing you all the best for a good end to the school year and looking to better times for the school year 2020-2021.

In Memory of UNIS Assistant Executive Director, Salvador Uy

The entire UNIS Community continues to feel the loss of Sal. We are better because of him - as a school and as individuals. Please enjoy these photos of some of the memories we shared with him



The Class of 2020



Congratulations to the Class of 2020! Although this was not how you pictured your end of high school, you have risen to the occasion and we are so proud of you!

On May 29, a student-led graduation celebration was virtually held and attended by the UNIS community. The celebration began with an inspiring speech from Secretary-General António Guterres. The speech was followed by a Q&A portion with questions from T4 students.

One lesson the S-G learned in high school that still has an impact on his life today? Solidarity and companionship. As made evident over the years and most recently by their ceremony, we can certainly say our T4s stand together in solidarity. The S-G also noted that UNIS students have gained "the capacity to think for yourselves, to learn how to learn, and to be able to construct your own future."

The celebration continued with videos memorializing the students' years at UNIS, personal, heartfelt reflections, testimonials from UNIS teachers, and even a poem, written by a staff member and performed by one of our graduates. The event culminated with a fabulous song written by a graduating T4 student and performed by UNIS classmates.

We will forever remember this wonderful celebration and the Class of 2020. We hope to come together in the General Assembly at the United Nations sometime in the future to hold an official graduation ceremony.



The S-G virtually addresses the Class of 2020.



T4 students address and inspire the UNIS community during their student-led celebration.

The Class of 2020



The Class of 2020 (long before 'social distancing' existed in our everyday lives.



UNIS Survivors (students who have attended UNIS from JA-T4)!



A banner greets the Class of 2020 as they return to campus one last time as UNIS students for their diplomas.





Tut House Principal Antoine Delaitre hands out diplomas to the graduates.

UNIS Community Cares

During these unprecedented times, the UNIS community has stepped up and worked on various projects toward helping to make the world a better place. Here are a few highlights of the many ways our

community has stayed active.

Just before we had to close the school building, the UNIS Book Drive was held. The UNIS Community donated and collected books for Children of Bellevue (CoB), a non-profit organization established to improve the health and well-being of children at Bellevue Hospital Center (photos below of the drive in action).









T2 student, Jack H, acknowledged the importance of a simple 'thank you.' He organized a community wide "thank you note drive" to support the health care workers who made and continue to make sacrifices to keep us all safe during the pandemic. (Two of the over 500 cards are shown above.)





Led by M4 families as a way to show appreciation to health care workers and to support a local Brooklyn restaurant, generous donations from the entire UNIS community enabled us to send over 400 meals to hospitals in hard hit areas across the city.

(Photos to the left show health care workers with meals provided by UNIS.)

Master Classes

We began hosting Master Classes during the pandemic as a way for our community to share meaningful experiences despite the inability to be together on campus. We have had many incredible opportunities to speak with experts in various fields and are grateful to those who took the time to offer a class.

Episode 1: The Honorable Stephen Breyer, US Supreme Court Justice

Our first session featured Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Justice Breyer began by explaining the importance of State Law, noting that these are the laws that affect us most on a day to day basis while living in the US. He then shared about the US Courts, the role that the Supreme Court plays, and the Constitution.

Episode 2: Max Hollein, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of NY

Session two featured Max Hollein, the Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Community questions focused around the 150th anniversary of the Met, how the Museum is confronting the current health situation, and how it is adapting to a globalized art world. Mr. Hollein pointed out the importance of being able to share the Met experience via digital platforms.



Episode 3: Michael Mayer, Tony Award Winning Director

We welcomed Michael Mayer, the Tony Award Winning Director of "Spring Awakening," "American Idiot," "Thoroughly Modern Millie," and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." Mr. Mayer has also directed numerous other plays and musicals, films, television shows, and operas. Mr. Mayer answered questions from the panel of UNIS teachers and students about his process, how to appeal to varying audiences, and the overall experience within the world of Broadway.



Master Classes cont.

Episode 4: UNIS Students present the Smiling Mask Concert

A group of UNIS Students with the goal of educating about COVID-19 built a website (sites.google.com/unis.org /coronavirus). They raised funds and created a concert highlighting the international language of music. We are proud of our UNIS students who actively work to help to build a better world.



Episode 5: Neal Shapiro, President and CEO of WNET and former President of NBC News

Our fifth session featured Mr. Neal Shapiro. Mr. Shapiro provided insight into his journey through the world of journalism. He highlighted the role of media in today's society, especially its role during a pandemic.



Episode 6: Madeleine Smithberg, UNIS Class of '77 and Creator of the Daily Show

In our sixth session, Madeleine Smithberg discussed her journey since graduating from UNIS, Class of 1977. After UNIS, she became an Art History major, took her first job post-grad in Italy, co-created the Daily Show, and continues with her success today.



Episode 7: Carol Bellamy, Chair of Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

Session seven featured Carol Bellamy a lawyer, a banker, and a New York Politician. She was the Director of the Peace Corps and ran UNICEF. She has been a leader in education, Board Chair of the IBO, and CEO of World Learning. Ms. Bellamy noted that becoming a volunteer in the Peace Corps was the most important decision she made. Ms. Bellamy discussed her journey of working both domestically and internationally.



Master Classes cont.

Episode 8: HE António Guterres, UN Secretary-General and the UNIS Class of 2020

Session 8 featured Secretary-General António Guterres as he addressed the UNIS Class of 2020 and celebrated their achievements. He answered questions from Tutorial House students about his experience in high school and his life today as the S-G. He provided our community with invaluable advice. Afterward, the celebration of the Class of 2020 continued with memories from their time at UNIS.



Episode 9: Dr. Prem Premsrirut, MD/PhD, CEO of Mirimus

Episode 9 featured Dr. Premsrirut who spoke to us about the work of the scientific community during COVID-19. Dr. Premsrirut explained the structure of COVID-19, how it infects humans and replicates, and the immune response it generates. She then provided an in-depth analysis of the various testing methods, antibodies, and more.



Episode 10: A Panel of UNIS Alumni discuss Dismantling Racism

Episode 10, our final masterclass of the school year, featured a panel of UNIS Alumni:

Ann Morning '86, Associate Professor of Sociology, NYU

Arthur Ago '86, Director of Criminal Justice Project, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights

E. Michael Bobbit '87, Assistant Commissioner, Community Action Programs for the City of New York

Moderated by: Sonny Ago '87, Assitant Vice President for Student Life at Manhattan College

The discussion began by defining racism, explaining why our concepts of race matter, and noting that UNIS students have the power to be agents of change. The panelists provided insight and background into our current climate, as well as the history that has brought us here. They then took questions from our community. The panelists emphasized that this is just the beginning and we must work to sustain the conversation and take action.



Arts

The Junior and Middle School Musical was Matilda. The cast and crew were able to perform the musical a few nights in front of an audience in our theatre prior to our closure. Each performance was spectacular. Once we shifted into a virtual world, they provided our community with one of our favorite moments - a performance of 'We are the World.'







Arts

Our Tutorial House students put on a spectacular two night virtual performance of "Twelfth Night" for the community to enjoy. One of our favorite moments (photo to the right) is from rehearsals ...the joy is contagious!







Arts

As our musicals, concerts, art shows, and performances all went virtual - one thing we certainly missed is walking around the buildings, admiring our students' artwork. IB Art Teacher Louise Wales shared photos of student artwork (JS-TH), so we can admire their hard work and creativity.

















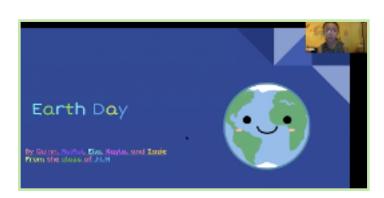
Junior School in Action



A day in the life of a student during the pandemic. Junior School students and teachers enjoy time with Mr. Vallet and his companion Germain via Zoom.

The Junior School (JS) celebrated Earth Day with a virtual assembly featuring presentations by JS students. Our JS students informed us of the history of Earth Day and described many challenges we face such as food waste, the use of plastics, and climate change. They shared ways to celebrate and respect the Earth and provided us with ways to conserve.

Our Peacekeepers are always working to help make our world a better place. The photos below feature advice from J3 and J4 Peacekeepers on what to during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the words of wisdom include: "keep trying and don't give up," "call your grandparents," and "read a book."





Middle School in Action



Middle School (MS) ELL students shared their original poetry with poets from Open Doors NYC.

Our MS students quickly adjusted to our new normal and did not let anything keep them from enjoying their talent shows. The virtual talent shows showcased the talent, energy, and creativity of our students. The shows included a variety of acts from singing to gymnastics!





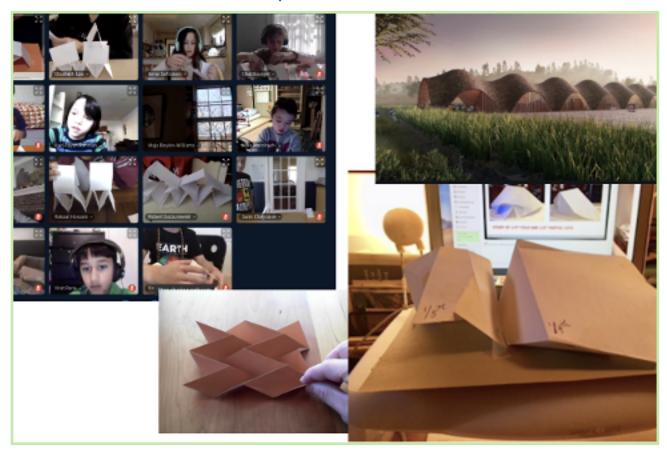


Congratulations to our Manhattan M4s! The virtual graduation ceremony featured musical performances, videos, stories, and more. We can't wait to see what's next!



The M4 design team held virtual meetings three times a week for five weeks to design a sweatshirt for the graduating M4 class. We appreciate their creativity and hard work.

Queens Campus in Action



STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education at UNIS Queens included Digital Citizenship, Design & Inventions, Robotics, Architecture & Engineering, and Coding & Programming. The snapshot above highlights a virtual STEM session in action.



M4 students engage in a virtual science experiment.

Congratulations to our Queens M4s! Their virtual graduation ceremony was filled with joyous memories and inspiration for what's next.



The J4 art gallery highlighted some amazing artworks - including "The Cat in the Mask!"



Tutorial House in Action



Over the past few months, Tutorial House (TH) students created recorded lessons on various topics such as languages, musical instrument demos, and art tutorials. They shared these classes with students from Elementary School P.S. M169.

A Virtual Model UN, written by T2 Student, Jasmine T:

On Sunday, May 24th, various TH UNIS students attended the first completely online Model UN conference titled, 'ZOOMUN.' Completely on ZOOM, I as well as my peers had the opportunity to discuss and come up with creative solutions to important global issues such as Human Trafficking, World Hunger, and the COVID-19 Pandemic. All the proceeds of the conference went directly to Direct Relief, an organization working to help workers on the front lines. The conference was extremely successful, and UNIS students won awards; Jasmin T winning Outstanding Delegate and Jack H winning a Verbal Commendation. Personally, I found it an amazing experience as with the Model UN season being cut short, it was great to have an opportunity to debate, and practice skills.

A major takeaway from the conference is the realization of the extent to which digital presence is increasing in importance. Before this conference I never thought the complex debate process could occur over a call. It was so great to be debating and doing something we love, while knowing that we were helping others.

Wellness Wednesdays:

Our TH students stepped up and offered to host online classes and activities for JS students during our Wellness Wednesdays. TH students volunteered their time to meet, plan, design, and deliver the activities/workshops. Pictured below is an origami class in session!



Congrats Grads! Where are they headed?

American University

Amherst College

Bard College

Baruch College (CUNY)

Bentley University

Boston University

Brandeis University

Brown University

Bryn Mawr College

Case Western Reserve

University

Chapman University

Charles University of Law

(Karlova Univerzita)

Clark University

Colgate University

Columbia

University-Science

Politique

Concordia University

Cornell University

Dickinson College

Drexel University

École hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL)

Emory University

Emory University (Oxford

College)

Fashion Institute of

Technology

Fordham University

Gap Year

George Washington

University

Gettysburg College

Hampton University

Hofstra University

Howard University

Hunter College (CUNY)

Ithaca College

Kenyon College

King's College London, University of London

Leiden University

Leiden University

Lynn University

Maastricht University

Macalester College

Maryland Institute

College of Art

New York University

Northeastern University

Oberlin College

Pace University

Pennsylvania State

University

Princeton University

Queen's University

Royal Holloway,

University of London

San Diego State

University

Scripps College

Singapore Military

Service

Skidmore College

Stanford University

Stony Brook University

Suffolk University

Temple University

The New School

The New School - Parsons

Tufts University

Tulane University

UCAS

UCAS, King's College

London

UCAS, Goldsmith's, University of London

UCAS, London School of

Economics

Where are they headed? cont.

UCAS, Manchester Metropolitan University

UCAS, Newcastle University

UCAS, Royal Holloway, University of London

UCAS, U of Sheffield

UCAS, University of Bath

UCAS, University of

Exeter

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome

Universiteit van Amsterdam

University College

Utrecht

University of Amsterdam

University of British

Columbia

University of California,

Berkeley

University of California, Santa Barbara University of Chicago

University of Michigan,

Ann Arbor

University of the Arts London (London College

of Fashion)

University of Toronto

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin,

Madison

Vassar College

Villanova University

Wagner College

Washington University in

St. Louis

Wesleyan University





A Few Dates to Remember

J1-J4 Orientation:

Friday, September 4th

School Closed (Labor Day):

Monday, September 7th

First Day of School:

Tuesday, September 8th

(T4 students First Day:

Thursday, September 3rd)

PreK & JA Orientation

Tuesday, September 8th

UN Day Celebration:

Friday, October 23rd

October Break:

Monday, October 26 - Friday,

October 30th

Need to contact a Principal?

Junior School:

Pascal Vallet

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Middle School:

Elaine Kelly

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Tutorial House:

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Queens:

Barbara Kennedy

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