

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

- **JT Brown** joins our staff as the new registrar, replacing Joanne Sugiyama, who served as our registrar for 33 years and retired at the end of the 2020–21 school year. J.T. has more than 20 years of experience as a registrar, most recently serving as the registrar at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont and holds a BA in business administration from Fresno Pacific University.
- Our Language Department welcomes **Ben Chang** as a Spanish instructor. For close to twenty years, Spanish language—most notably Spanish-language acquisition—has been a central point of Ben’s life focus. He most recently worked as a Spanish teacher, advisor, and coach at the Nueva School, and previously served as a world language faculty member at Drew School and as a Spanish instructor at Choate Rosemary Hall in Connecticut. Ben earned a BA degree from Tufts University, an MA in Spanish philology from Middlebury College, and a Certificate in Elementary Education and Secondary School Spanish from the College of New Jersey in Mallorca, Spain.
- **Dr. Nandita Dinesh** joins UHS this fall as the director of the Human Development Department. Nandita brings a wealth of experiences from the United World College, as the associate director of the Bartos Institute for Constructive Engagement of Conflict (2015–2018), head of performing arts (2015), and head of arts, theatre arts & literature teacher, and experiential education head (2011–2014). After graduating from Wellesley College with a BA in theatre studies and economics, she received an MA in performance studies from New York University and a PhD in drama from the University of Cape Town. We are excited to see her unique background in the arts, service learning, experiential education, and curriculum development helping the Human Development Department flourish.
- Our Athletics Department welcomes **A’Jae Foster** as the assistant athletics director. A’Jae has served as the assistant women’s basketball coach at Academy of Art University and as the director of analytics at Gonzaga University, where the women’s basketball team won a 2018–19 conference championship. She earned an associate degree in sociology, a bachelor’s degree in social work, and a master’s degree in organizational leadership from Gonzaga University.
- **Nelson Funes** joins our Science Department, teaching Honors Biology and Advanced Bio electives. Nelson attended San Francisco State University, where he earned a BA in Latin American studies (Raza Studies), and was an Honor Scholar Graduate, with a concentration in biology, at Los Medanos College. His postgraduate studies were at the Universidad Pedagógica de El Salvador, where he earned his teaching credential with a concentration in Biology.

- Arts instructor **Bria Goeller** will be teaching Drawing and Painting III and co-teaching AP Studio Art. Bria is a San Francisco artist, designer, and educator with a BA in art and education from Emory University. She also studied at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (Denmark, Sweden, and Ireland) and the Sarah College for Higher Tibetan Studies (India). At Drepung Monastic University (India), she explored intersections between Eastern and Western medicine.
- Our Human Development team welcomes **De Shan Lett** as our new Director of Learning Services. De Shan received her M.S.Ed. from CUNY - Lehman College, her B.A. from Wayne State University, and attended a graduate program at Cornell University. De Shan lives by the belief that “life is about the journey, not the destination.” De Shan brings to UHS experience from the Charles Armstrong Day School, where she served as both Middle School Director and Associate Director of Equity & Inclusion. She also worked at Park Day School as Middle School Director, Burgundy Farm Country Day School as Director of Academic and Student Support & Interim Middle School Head, and the Emma Willard School as Director of Cognitive Skills.
- **Ernesto Mazar Kindelan** joins our Music Department as a music instructor, teaching Chamber Orchestra and Beginning Instruments. Ernesto graduated from Holy Names University with a master’s degree in art, and received a BA degree from Instituto Superior de Artes in Costa Rica. A highly skilled and versatile musician, Ernesto taught at the Golden Gate Bass Camp in San Francisco this summer, creating a curriculum including Latin, jazz, and improvisation courses.
- Early this summer, our business office welcomed **Laura Miller** as the new director of human resources. Laura is a driven human resources leader with deep experience and success in building and growing teams, applying a people-centric focus, identifying opportunities, and delivering solutions. She previously served as the head of human resources at Seal Software in Walnut Creek and as the director of human resources at Ariat International in Union City. She holds a BS in Business Administration from California State University at Northridge and a Human Resources Management Certificate from the University of California, Los Angeles.
- **Nikhil Paladugu ’12** returns to his alma mater to join the Arts Department. Nikhil will be teaching all levels of our ceramics program. He received his BA degree in neuroscience and art from Swarthmore College, and his MFA degree from the Art Center College of Design. As an alumnus of the UHS ceramics program, Nikhil strongly believes in the holistic capacity of creative and visual arts to empower students to maximize their potential.
- In April 2021, **Marjan Philhour** joined our development team as our new campaign associate, responsible for major gift fundraising. She is also our liaison to the Parents Association. A graduate of UC Berkeley, Marjan was most recently a candidate to represent District 1 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. In addition to serving in the offices of Mayor London Breed, John Kerry, and Governor Gray Davis, she has provided counsel and oversight to nonprofits and private corporations in the areas of fundraising and strategy. Marjan also

cofounded the Balboa Village Merchants Association, is a member of the Filipina Women's Network, and has served on the boards of the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women and the SF National Women's Political Caucus. Marjan and her husband, UHS's own Byron Philhour, also became new UHS parents this fall, as we welcomed Joey to the class of 2025.

- **Mary Stares** joins our business office team as manager of operations, responsible for many of the day-to-day non-financial activities for UHS. Mary has more than 15 years of administrative and operational experience; she most recently served as a residential senior staff member at the San Francisco Zen Center. She has a BA in history and is a certified Canadian Red Seal Journeyman Carpenter and a Zen Buddhist priest with 22 years of practice and teaching, after receiving her monastic training in locations worldwide.
- **Teresa Vo** joins the development office as a development associate. Teresa most recently served as the business resource associate at the YMCA of San Francisco, where she managed donations and development campaigns. She holds a bachelor's degree in managerial economics from the University of California.