United Nations International School

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

a better world 👯

united nations international set

UNIS Mission

UNIS fosters innovation, creativity and cross-cultural communication, educating and inspiring its students to become an active force in shaping a better world: peaceful, compassionate and sustainable.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear UNIS Families and Friends,

It is our privilege to present the 2020-2021 UNIS Annual Report. This report highlights the resilience and passion of the UNIS community as we continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. It celebrates many of the accomplishments that occurred over the course of the school year.

The year began with students, faculty, and staff returning to campus for the first time since March 2020. The joy of being back to school was notable although it looked a bit different, I with new protocols in place to ensure the health and safety of all. These efforts were well worth it as once the situation improved, we were able to welcome students back for full-time in-person learning.

Despite the pause on in-person visits to the UN, the collaborative relationship with the UN continued to strengthen and grow. As the School of the United Nations, it is evident the UN's ideals permeate UNIS. As is tradition, in the fall, we celebrated our connection to the UN during UN Day.

In the Spring, in celebration of International Women's Day, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed hosted a virtual "fireside chat" with the community. Additionally, the student-led UNIS-UN conference also took place virtually and focused on the global impacts of COVID-19. The conference featured keynote speakers Dr. Anthony Fauci, Ms. Christiane Amanpour, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, and Ambassador Burhan Gafoor. Over the course of the two days, the conference included many additional UN-affiliated speakers. And, to conclude the year and celebrate the Class of 2021, UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres delivered a virtual commencement speech at graduation.

The 2020-2021 year allowed us to reflect, grow, and improve. We are excited that UNIS continues to flourish in our education of global citizens.

Catherine Pollard

Dan Brenner, PhD Executive Director

Chair of the Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2020-2021

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.

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HONORARY TRUSTEES

UNIS recognizes members of the UNIS community, of the United Nations and of the Member States and Observers of the United Nations, as Honorary Trustees of UNIS.

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UNIQUELY UNIS



IB Founding School



1579 Students



9 Languages Offered



26% of Class of 2021 Graduated with the Bilingual IB Diploma



104 Countries Represented by Students



45 Countries Represented by Faculty & Staff



96 Mother Tongue Languages Spoken

A YEAR IN REVIEW



SEPTEMBER

Welcome Back!

After an unprecedented Spring of 2020 due to the international COVID-19 pandemic, UNIS was prepared and eager to welcome students, faculty, and staff back onto campus. With health and safety as our top priority, the school year began in a hybrid learning format, where students alternated between in person and remote learning. Because of this, we had two successful first days, allowing students to enjoy the moment of being back to school for the first time since March 2020. Remote learners were able to livestream into their classrooms thanks to the implementation of new technology and commitment from our teachers on both campuses. In person learning functioned a little differently than normal with an emphasis on mask wearing and social distancing, but the energy and joy of being back in school could still be felt. As a community, the individuals of UNIS collectively took responsibility to

allow for a successful year back to in person learning.

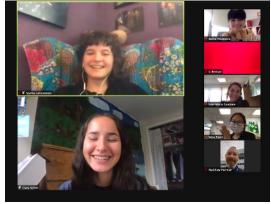


Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion In the months leading up to the 2020-2021 school year, UNIS was also forced to look inward and recognize the existence of systemic racism. At UNIS, we are advocates for anti-racism and thus took time to reflect on our past and make changes for the future through the necessary hard work we are committed to. After engaging in honest dialogue on race and privilege with administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and parents, UNIS took action. Dr. Judith King-Calnek became the school's first Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Dr King-Calnek has been a member of the UNIS community since 1994 and took on the role of Director of DEI head on.

OCTOBER

Tut House Students Leading

As students, faculty, and staff acclimated to the Hybrid schedule, Tutorial House students jumped right in and ran their annual Club Fair in a virtual format. The Club Fair showcased over 40 clubs and conferences in the categories of: Academics; Activism, Politics, and Advocacy; Arts and Recreation; Cultural; Media and Publication; and UN Related. The event ran for three days and allowed students to learn about the vast selection of clubs and conferences, and allowed each club to pitch to interested members. It was a successful and impressive event that highlighted our student body's adaptability, leadership skills, and commitment to think and act critically and creatively.



UN Day

Every October, the UNIS community celebrates our connection to the UN, our diversity, and shared humanity through UN Day as UN Day marks the day the UN officially came into being. Though our UNIS celebrations looked quite different than most years, the celebration of the UN spirit and ideals was not dulled. Tutorial House students learned about the US Electoral College with NYU Professor of Politics and Co-Director of the NYU Center for Social Media and Politics, Joshua Tucker. TH Students also participated in a guided activity around SDG #4: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Middle School students enjoyed a special UN Day webinar, while the Queens campus enjoyed both in person and virtual activities including wonderful musical performances by students. Junior School students engaged in their

annual UN Day assembly including the UN Chant and the Message from the S-G. Although we were unable to visit the UN this year, Junior School Mascot Germain had the privilege of taking a tour with UNIS Board member Stephen Margetts in celebration of UN Day.





Respect & Equal Rights

UNIS students consistently demonstrate their respect for equal rights for all. One instance from October was when Tutorial House students participated in International Pronouns Day in Spanish. The day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace as referring to people by the pronouns they determine for themselves is basic to human dignity.



NOVEMBER Poetry

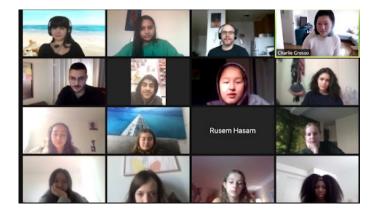
As the weather grew colder, the resilience, commitment and creativity of our community allowed for the continuation of a fantastic school year. Junior School students were able to partake in their annual tradition of reciting of French poems. J4 students studied the work of Victor Hugo and learned about how beauty can come from tragedy. The children studied the meaning of the moving poem "Demain dés l'aube", appreciated the beauty of the writing, and learned to recite the poem by heart. They shared Hugo's poem along with other poems, including those they wrote themselves.



Les parapluies poétiques (The Poetic Umbrellas) is an action where the J4 students offered a poem to listeners and then gave a short explanation of it.

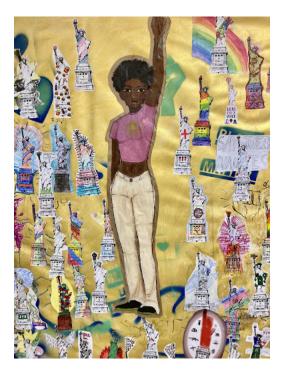
Design Thinking

Tutorial House students participated in a design thinking competition organized by the non-profit Hello Future and coordinated at UNIS by The STAR Project club. This opportunity brought together Syrian refugee teens and U.S. teens who worked to develop creative solutions to the challenges of education in the pandemic. Students had to design a prototype, test it, and present the solution. This opportunity allowed for students to work collaboratively, develop their design thinking skillsets, and help raise money for refugee teen educational programming.



Anti-Racism Artwork

Middle School and Tutorial House students created a collaborative painting highlighting issues of racism that are prevalent throughout the United States. The final product is powerful, moving, and a testament of what can be achieved when we work together despite the difficulties of the pandemic. were able to donate 4,000 pounds of food and toiletries! The work of our Office of Student Activities, parents, the STAR project club, and all volunteers emphasizes the UNIS community's commitment to helping food insecure families in our NYC area. Moments like these showcase our community's commitment to caring for others.



City Harvest Drive

The UNIS Community annually partakes in the City Harvest Drive. This year the community successfully came together and



DECEMBER

Expert Talk Series

The Junior School engaged in an "Expert Talk Series" in which parents taught students about the United Nations and how organizations and individuals help communities prevent, mitigate, and respond to natural hazards worldwide. In December, UNIS parent Sophie Battas shared her humanitarian assistance expertise with the Red Cross, NGOS, the European Commission, and UNICEF. Students learned about the impacts natural disasters can have on communities internationally and how humanitarian aid can help during and after disasters.

Winter Olympics

Unfortunately, the cancellation of events has occurred internationally throughout the pandemic. Many joyous celebrations and traditions have had to be postponed or canceled. The Queens Winter Concert and Holiday Fair were no different. However, the Queens faculty and staff were committed to providing students with a unique experience to celebrate the end of the year. They held the "Winter Olympics" to allow students an opportunity for collaboration, problem solving, and fun outside the traditional classroom. The event was a success all around and exemplified the joyous spirit of UNIS.

Sustainable Development Goals in the Curriculum

At UNIS, we love to find different ways to incorporate the UN's Sustainable Development Goals whenever possible. In December, Middle School students created Oceans in Motion Art projects focusing on SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The students worked on their drew, painted, and learned digital skills to animate their work all while showcases their thoughts on conservation and sustainability of our oceans.



Arabic Language Day

Throughout the course of the year, UNIS held special Wellness Wednesdays that involved guided activities, lectures and discussions, or celebrations In December, we celebrated Arabic Language Day Celebration. The celebrations were led by H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al-Hassan and UNIS students. Together we drank tea, made Arabic Calligraphy, and celebrated the beautiful Arabic language.



JANUARY

Appreciation of Cultures

The Cultural Events Committee of the UNIS Parents' Association hosted "Calpulli Conectado" in January. This live, community wide event invited UNIS families to immerse themselves into the diverse dances of Mexico. The event was well attended and was a fun way for families to virtually gather and learn about another culture.

Collective Responsibility during Holocaust Remembrance

To commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, the UNIS PA DEI Committee collaborated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust hosted a webinar featuring guest speaker Briona Brandman, a survivor of Aushwitz. Briona bravely shared her remarkable story with the community. It was an event filled with emotion and reflection as we commemorated the tragedy of the Holocaust and realized our collective responsibility to share the history and lessons so this should never happen again.

Design Engineering

Throughout the month of January, Junior School Design Engineering students worked on designing their own computer game using the Scratch block based programming language and the CSFirst curriculum. They also used Makey Makey to create a game controller out of everyday objects to be able to play their own games. Students learned about coding, as well as an understanding of circuits, electricity, and conductivity.

The Queens campus received a grant for 3d Gamification and Animation and was able to begin a pilot program that focused on teaching students how to create AR and VR, as well as 2D and 3D game development. This program was a great intro for interactive design and development helping to prepare our students for their futures in a tech heavy society.



Student Leadership

The Middle School held their Student Council elections in January. Each candidate delivered a speech to their classmates during Community periods. Two representatives from each grade were selected to the student council for the second semester. Our future leaders are already in action!

Milestones in the IB

As the International Baccalaureate is the capstone of academic

progress at UNIS, we were extremely proud as T4 students completed their extended essays and the projects were submitted to the IB. This is a major accomplishment during the students' senior year. The essays were printed and on display in the library for other students, faculty, and staff to read and enjoy.



FEBRUARY

EIB Leads Mentorship Program

Tutorial House students in the EIB (Equity and Inclusion Board) started their mentorship program for both Junior School and Middle School students. The first mentorship sessions in the Junior School started with teaching about the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them unto you," also stated as "Treat others how you would like to be treated." The student mentors taught the younger students about empathy and respect. In the Middle School, the student mentors focused on Understanding Race in Society and focused on the concepts of identity, microaggressions, stereotypes, and racism.



Black History Month

In recognition of Black History Month, the DEI department, in partnership with the PA DEI Committee and the EIB, hosted a Black History Month Speakers mini-series. The speaker series showcased the short film *Scattered Africa* and included a Q&A with filmmaker and anthropologist Dr. Sheila Walker. It also included a talk by our own Dr. Judith King-Calnek on *Abolition and Artistry, Free People of Color in the 19th Century US.* Dr. Kim D. Butler of Rutgers University concluded the series with her talk on *Beyond Victims, Pathologies and Magical Negroes: The Beauty and Transformative Power of Blackness.* This speaker series was powerful and focused on the black experience both historically and currently.

Student Run Concert

Tutorial House students organized their second MusiConnect concert led by Cadenza, a TH club aimed at utilizing music to share joy with others. The students developed the concert series as a way to raise school spirit during the difficult times of the pandemic and to help the community connect through music. Their second concert was 50 minutes and extremely successful. We are proud of our students who are committed to helping their fellow classmates and understand the importance of mental health and balance.

MARCH UNIS-UN Conference

The Tutorial House student organization UNIS-UN held their first fully virtual, student-led international conference and it was outstanding. The title of the conference was A Global Catastrophe: The Impacts of *COVID-19.* The two-day conference covered topics such as politics and the pandemic, Coronavirus through the eyes of the media, economic fallout and recovery, COVID-19 and immigration, racial and ethnic disparities, the effects on domestic life dynamics, and many more. The conference featured Keynote Speakers: Dr. Anthony Fauci (& Dr. Michael Phillips for live Q&A), Christiane Amanpour, Sanjay Gupta, Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, and many other guest speakers including multiple UNIS alumni.

We are extremely privileged to be able to engage with leaders from many different facets. Each session was filled with informative information.





International Women's Day

In celebration of IWD 2021, the PA DEI Committee in partnership and collaboration with the EIB, hosted a Fireside Chat with H.E. Ms Amina J Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Fireside Chat was moderated by Tut House students and focused on addressing gender bias and celebrating women's achievements.

IB Art Gallery

The IB Art students held the 2021 IB Art Gallery Exhibit: Unmuted. The T4 art students succeeded in producing a truly impressive and heartfelt gallery show that exemplified the spirit of our community and showcased their passion and skill sets.



APRIL

Return to Full Time In Person

As the circumstances in New York improved regarding the pandemic, we were able to have all students attend school daily on campus! This was the first time we had all students together on campus since March 2020. The hybrid and fully remote options stayed in place for all who chose to continue with those learning models. It was a delight to welcome almost all of our students back on our campuses.

Celebrating our Earth

Earth Day celebrations occurred on both campuses as students learned about the importance of sustainability and protecting our earth, while also celebrating its beauty. Students on both campuses spent time outdoors planting and tending to bulbs they had planted in the fall.



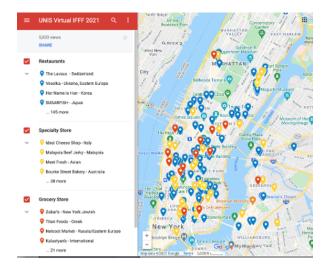
MAY

In Celebration of AAPI Heritage

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, UNIS hosted a Conversation on the AAPI Experience. This student moderated webinar provided an opportunity for UNIS students to connect with faculty, staff, and alumni through shared experiences and engaging discussions.

International Food & Fun Fair

The International Food & Fun Fair (IFF) is an annual community building and fundraising event that celebrates who UNIS is and what UNIS is about. This event can be particularly challenging in a doesn't translate well into a virtual format given that it is generally a time that we come together and share food from each others' home countries. However, thanks to the UNIS PA, a wonderful solution was developed. The UNIS Community built a gastronomic map with recommendations of restaurants, specialty stores, and gastronomic stores around NYC that celebrated the international community that makes up UNIS..



For the Love of Books

As the weather grew warmer, we were able to bring back more annual traditions, including the beloved Junior School Book Parade. JS students and faculty dressed up as their favorite characters and shared their favorite book. It was wonderful to see so many joyous faces and excitement celebrating our love of literature.



JUNE

Tutorial House Graduation

We were thrilled to be able to celebrate our 2021 graduates with an in-person graduation at

SummerStage Central Park. Though different than the traditional ceremony in the General Assembly of the United Nations, it was special and a true celebration of our graduates. The ceremony began with a personalized message from Secretary-General António Guterres to the graduates and continued on with an inspiring speech from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Breyer. The T4s were also able to culminate their high school experience with their Senior Boat Ride, a UNIS tradition of over 20 years. The excitement and joy was palpable.



Inspiring Generations to Come

The graduating class also left a gift to UNIS in the form of a mural with

a message located on the North Side of the roof. The mural is titled "Shaping a Better World." They completed it collaboratively over multiple days days. It will now serve as an inspiration for future graduating classes.



Middle School Graduation

Our culminating event for the Middle School on both campuses was graduation. Our M4s had an in person ceremony using the Manhattan theatre, cafeteria, and the Queens' field. Although we weren't able to welcome family and friends in person at Manhattan, they were able to join virtually. The ceremony featured Speaker Nancy Pelosi as the Graduation Speaker and proud UNIS grandmother. Speaker Pelosi has known the class since they entered Middle School, so it was a special moment to reflect on their journey into high school. At the outdoor ceremony at Queens, students were able to perform skits and musical performances.





The Year that Zoomed By

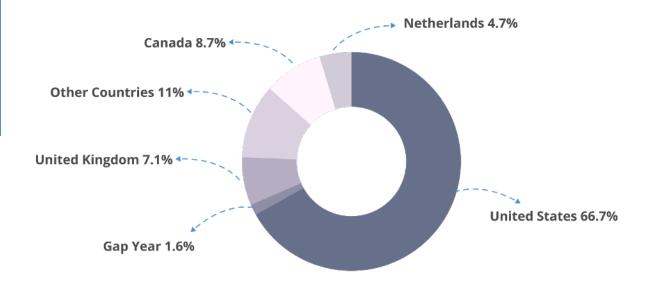
Multiple JS classes and over 75 members of faculty and staff created the mural "The Year That Zoomed By." The community mural commemorates a special school year spent in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. The 8 ½ ft x 8 ¹/₂ ft mural, installed on the wall of the landing in the stairwell across from the Junior School library, is made of 256 unique ceramic tiles. Students and their teachers created a painted portrait of themselves on zoom, some appearing to be holding hands from one tile to the other, while staff and faculty wrote hashtags expressing the resilience, memories and hardships of a memorable year. The final design of the mural evokes a close-up view of a QR code, alluding to the virtual communication mode that defined much of the school year, when teaching and learning were taking place remotely through a computer screen.

The Year that Zoomed By



CLASS OF 2021 COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

University Enrollment by Country



Aalto University, Finland

American University in Paris (2), France

Amsterdam University College (2), Netherlands

Babson College, USA

Bard College (2), USA

Barnard College, USA

Bates College, USA

Berkley College of Music, USA

Bocconi University, Italy

Boston College (2), USA

Boston University (2), USA

Bowdoin College, USA

Brandeis University, USA

Case Western Reserve University, USA

College of William & Mary, USA

Colorado College, USA

Concordia University (2), Canada

Cornell University (5), USA

Dickinson College, USA

Emerson College (3), USA

ESADE, Spain

Fashion Institute of Technology, USA

Fordham University, USA

Gap Year (3)

Georgia Institute of Technology (2), USA

Hamilton College, USA

Haverford College, USA

Heidelberg University, Germany

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong/China

Howard University (2), USA

Hunter College, USA

I**ndiana University Bloomington**, USA

I**stituto Europeo di Design,** Milan, Italy

Johns Hopkins University, USA

Kent School, USA

King's College London, England

Kyoto University of Advanced Science, Japan

Leiden University, Netherlands

London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London, England

Maastricht University, Netherlands

Marist College, USA

McGill University (3), Canada

New York University (4), USA

Northeastern University (8), USA

Pace University, USA

Reed College, USA

Rice University, USA

Rochester Institute of Technology, USA

Rotterdam School of Management, Netherlands

Rutgers University, USA

Sarah Lawrence College, USA

Scripps College, USA

Skidmore College (2), USA

Stony Brook University, USA

Swarthmore College (2), USA

Syddansk Universitet, København, Denmark

Temple University, USA

The University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Tufts University, USA Trinity College Dublin - Medical School, Republic of Ireland

UCLA, USA

Union College, USA

University College Dublin, Republic of Ireland

University of British Columbia - Okanagan, Canada

University of California Berkeley, USA

University of California Irvine, USA

University of California San Diego (3), USA

University of Chicago, USA

University of Colorado Boulder, USA

University of Dundee, Scotland

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

University of Manchester (2), England

University of Miami (2), USA

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2), USA

University of Richmond, USA

University of Rochester, USA

University of St Andrews (3), Scotland

University of Toronto (4), Canada

University of Twente, Netherlands

Vancouver Film School, Canada

Vassar College (3), USA

Washington University - St. Louis (2), USA

Wirtschaftsuniversität WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria

Yale University, USA

In Memoriam: Sylvia Howard Fuhrman ASG, SRSG for UNIS



A driving force in the growth and development of the United Nations International School (UNIS), Mrs. Fuhrman dedicated her life to the world-renowned institution. She was appointed to her position as Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for UNIS by Secretary-General U-Thant in 1967. She held that position for 45 years.

Mrs. Fuhrman served as a liaison between governments, often representing each of the six Secretaries-General she served at meetings and events. She welcomed every new Ambassador and met with new UN Families to enroll their children at UNIS. She was instrumental in obtaining UN financial support for the school. Her creation of the Development Fund in 1963 provided much-needed funding through 1983. As the primary fundraiser for the school, she found a seat at the table in boardrooms, in diplomatic circles with world leaders and top-level foundations, always with grace and elegance. She reached out to each of the193 UN Member States in 2007 and secured several large gifts for capital improvements.

Mrs. Fuhrman focused on finding a physical home for the school, which resulted in the creation of a unique learning environment for thousands of children from around the world. She helped curate opportunities for students to meet with world leaders and attend historic events. She made it possible for the 1966 UNIS graduating class to hold its commencement ceremonies in the General Assembly Hall, an event that has taken place every year since then. In 1976, she worked with UNIS students to create an annual student-led conference, UNIS-UN, focused on current global events held in the General Assembly Hall. She was the longest-standing member of the UNIS Board of Trustees, serving for over 50 years.

Well-known and respected throughout the UN Secretariat, she was truly a giant in the lives of so many people. Mrs. Fuhrman is survived by her daughter Leni Fuhrman and son-in-law Charles DeFanti.

UNIS DONORS 2020-2021

The UNIS Fund is an annual appeal in which trustees, parents, alumni, faculty and staff, and friends, support UNIS by making a financial gift to the School. These gifts support the School's current fiscal-year operating budget. Donations to The UNIS Fund help to pay for our current and most immediate needs including safety and wellness protocols, academic and extracurricular programs, technology enhancements, tuition assistance, and maintenance of our buildings and grounds. A growing and vibrant UNIS Fund is vital to our mission to provide the best education for our students. Every gift, of every amount, is valued and appreciated. Thank you to all our supporters.

Dr. Honor Financial Aid

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We thank you again for your support!





TREASURER'S REPORT

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

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, tuition continued to comprise 90% of total revenue. UNIS's tuition for the 2020-21 fiscal year increased by 2.49%. In keeping tuition increases predictable, we are committed to continuing our efforts to increase non-tuition revenue sources, such as gifts to the Annual Fund.

As a result of the continuing pandemic, we maintained our focus on allocating the necessary resources in making our campuses safe for our entire community. This included utilizing technology to safely test students and staff so our doors could reopen. Our focus remained on technological advances for remote learning, and professional development for our faculty and staff for incorporating hybrid learning into the school year.

Capital projects focused heavily on improving long-deferred building maintenance projects at 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 once again finished the fiscal year in a firm financial position.

Through the ongoing work of the Investment Sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees, donor restricted net assets increased to \$28.4 million as of June 30, 2021.

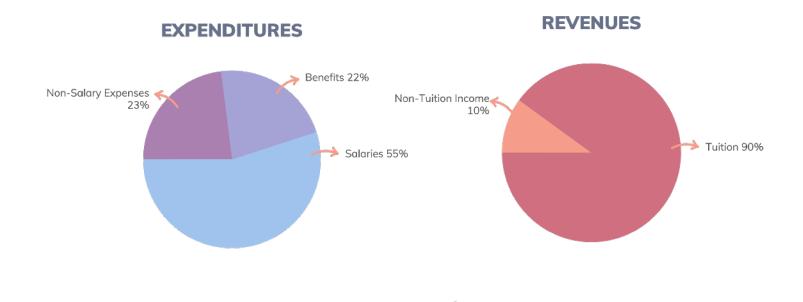
UNIS is grateful for the Modern Language Department's ongoing support

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 solid donor support among parents and alumni. We hope to continue this growth to reduce reliance on tuition and provide financial aid to those students in need. Financial contributions significantly impact UNIS's ability to innovate and enhance our students' educational experience. The continuing generosity of parents, alumni, parents of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of UNIS affirms their awareness of philanthropic gifts' vital role. As a result of the school's financial position and through the support of our community, UNIS could continue its \$1.72 million in financial aid assistance to our students.

We are very excited about all the new developments and achievements by UNIS in the 2020-21 academic year. We are looking forward to more to come in the years ahead of us.

> Alla Liberman Treasurer, Board of Trustees



"As members of the UNIS Community, you have already been imbued with an awareness of diversity as a strength and of global cooperation as a must. Please take the orientation with you wherever you go, in all that you do."

> -Secretary António-Guterres Secretary-General of the United Nations to UNIS Graduates

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