UWC Dilijan College is the 14th member of the United World Colleges movement with a mission to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. One of eighteen UWC colleges around the world, UWC Dilijan is the first international boarding school in Armenia for students aged 16 to 18. Offering the IB Diploma Program, in the academic year 2019-20 UWC Dilijan has a student body of 226 from over 80 countries and an international faculty of 40 from 15 countries.
The 2019/20 academic year has been, by all accounts, like no other. Having come to grips with the consequences of COVID-19 and the new reality, we decided that celebrating the impact of our donors’ generosity in this Annual Review is more important than ever.

In spite of the situation we found ourselves in, this academic year has been special as we marked the 5th Anniversary of our beautiful school in October last year.

Founded in 2014, UWC Dilijan has been demonstrating resilience because of its vibrant community of students, staff, parents, supporters and friends, and in spite of the current challenges, it is in a position to arise stronger from the crisis.

As a philanthropic endeavour of the Founders Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend and the Founding Patrons Gagik Adibekyan, Noubar and Anna Afeyan, Vladimir and Anna Avetissian and Oleg Mkrtchan, who set a goal for the school to become a center of educational excellence, UWC Dilijan has succeeded. In the short five years it has established itself among the UWC network of schools and is uniquely placed not only to transform the lives of many young people but also to contribute to the development of Dilijan, Armenia and the region.

To celebrate the 5th Anniversary, UWC Dilijan, with the support of the 5th Anniversary Committee, mounted a campaign to raise $5 million for scholarships, to enable the school to remain true to its ethos of diversity. We reached out to the community of far-sighted individuals and asked them to commit one scholarship a year every year for the next five years. We are delighted with their response, which resulted in achieving our goal. We sincerely thank the 5th Anniversary Circle of Benefactors, whose names are listed on the pages of this publication, for the faith they placed in UWC Dilijan. We would like to recognize especially Noubar and Anna Afeyan, our Board members, who made a lead gift of $1 million and by doing so created a strong foundation for the success of the 5th Anniversary campaign.

We are grateful to all the supporters who made gifts, big and small, over this year. Bringing young people together to build international understanding is taking a new meaning in this new reality. Let us ensure that the barriers imposed by COVID-19 will not diminish our resolve to work towards a more peaceful and equitable world.

To this end, taking the seriousness of the effect of COVID-19 on the financial standing of the school, the Committee decided to continue the 5th Anniversary campaign into the next academic year and to raise much needed scholarship funds.

Given the crucial role philanthropic gifts play in UWC Dilijan’s operations, we are delighted to announce that the school Founders, Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend, made a special commitment this May. They pledged to contribute, over the next five years, $3 million to operations, including innovative initiatives that can help UWC Dilijan overcome the difficulties presented by the crisis.

When we started this academic year with 5th Anniversary celebrations in October 2019 and launched the 5th Anniversary philanthropic campaign, we could not have imagined what the year had in store for us. However, we have shown resilience and an ability to adapt. We can reimagine ourselves, realize our dreams and secure the future of our school, while staying true to our values of mutual responsibility and respect, compassion, service and idealism.

In this publication we present some uplifting and inspiring stories of our supporters, and of students and alumni whose lives have been transformed by scholarships. I hope that you enjoy this Annual Review which showcases our community at its best. I sincerely believe that, empowered by the generosity of our donors, UWC Dilijan will continue to thrive and achieve its noble goals.

My sincere gratitude to all supporting us in this remarkable journey,

Gabriel Abad Fernández
Head, UWC Dilijan College
THANK YOU

Founders Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend for their inspiration, leadership and generosity

The 5th Anniversary Circle of Benefactors

Anna & Noubar Afeyan – lead gift
Ruben Arutyunyan & Anahit Antonyan
Evgeny Demin & Elena Belous
Leonid Mikhelson
Dar Foundation/Nikita Mishin
Karen & Anna Sarkisov
Sergey Sarkisov & Rousudan Makhashvili
Star for Life Foundation/Dan Olofsson

Individuals and organizations providing full scholarships

- Acronis
- Ameria Group
- Ameria Leadership Team
- Vladimir & Tatiana Artyakov
- Serguei Beloussov
- Mikhail Broitman
- Shelby Davis
- Lord Ara Darzi
- Herman & Yana Gref
- Dr Vartan Gregorian
- HOFF
- «ISTOKI» Foundation/Vladimir Yakunin
- Mikhail Kusnirovich
- Paul & Yaffa Maritz
- Konstantin & Svetlana Nikolaev
- Sumbat & Julia Oganov
- Elena Orlova
- Oleg Pukhov
- Sberbank & «Investment to the future» Foundation
- Gennady & Elena Timchenko

My wife and I do this both for students and for ourselves, to be sure that in the future our country and the world as a whole will be in more reliable and smart hands.

Ruben Arutyunyan
Individuals and organizations providing support

Abad Merritt Family
Samvel Aghababyan
Mariam Akhinova
Anas Amireh
Artur Amirkhanyan
Arthur Andreasyan
Alexey Anischenko
Emilia Arakelyan
Carol Aslanian
Oxana Averba
Arthur Babayan
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Francesco Casucci
Philip Couzens
Haig Der Nishanian
Sophie Dorothea Duncker
Elisabet Engellau & Manfred Kets de Vries
Sergey Filimonov
Gevork Gaboyan
Svetlana Garipova
Arpenik Ghahriyan
Armine Ghazaryan
Tatyana Glyadkova
Svetlana Golovkova
Carrina Gordon
Yuliana Gordon
Viktoria Gorlacheva
Anastasia Gorodetskaya
Jo Govaerts
Pierre Gurdjian
John Guyatt
Lusine Hakobyan
Artak Hanesyan
Maison Mairik/ Janet Karapetyan
Arman Jilavian
Tigran Jrbashyan
Alexey Kalinin
Maison Mairik/ Janet Karapetyan
Arman Jilavian
Tigran Jrbashyan
Alexey Kalinin

Alexander Korolev
Maria Kotova
Irina Kuranova
Tatyana Lopareva
Natalya Lysenko
Ina Mandre
Naira Manoukian
Nieves Mantecon Lopez
Anton Manyashin
Alexey Markov
Katherine K. Merseth
Alexandra Mikhailitchenko
Andrew Mkrtchyan
Arno Mosikyan
Burastan Movsisyan
Alexey Murzin
Ekaterina Nadymova
Zhanna O’Clery
Oksana Pavlova
Valeriya Pavlova
Francisco Perozo
Anna Pochukanets
Fernanda Pohla
Elena Popova
Svetlana Popova
Radko Radonov
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Kostiantyn Rymar
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Gagik Sahakyan
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Elena Shigina
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Alexey Stankevich
Sergey Starcheus
Olga Surikova
Tatiana Suslova
Gevorg Tarumyan
Team of Aurora Humanitarian Initiative
Anastasiya Titova
Sargis Tsaghikyan
Maria Tsypina
Marina Vasiltsova
Karina Yakubova

We would also like to acknowledge the support of those who prefer to remain anonymous.
Noubar and Anna Afeyan are Founding Patrons of UWC Dili-jan and have been supporting the school since its opening financially and by being actively involved in its development. They are both members of the UWCD Board. Anna is also Co-Chair of the 5th Anniversary Committee, which is focused on fundraising activities and on broadening the base of supporters of UWCD.

Both biochemical engineers, Noubar and Anna are passionate about education and its transformational power. They also represent internationalism in action – Anna is from Sweden, and Noubar, of Armenian origin, was born in Beirut and grew up in Montreal, Canada. They live in Boston, USA.

Anna received her M.S. in Biochemical Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. Before moving to the US in 1988 to take on a position in biotechnology process development for the Schering Plough Corporation, Anna worked as a process engineer at Alfa-Laval, Sweden. Having taken a career break to raise the couple's four children, Anna has been engaged in educational non-profit work for the past 20 years. For ten of those years, Anna has been involved with Beacon Academy as a Science teacher and trustee, striving to close the achievement gap in education for a cadre of bright and determined Boston students.

Noubar did his undergraduate degree at McGill University and completed his Ph.D. in biochemical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is CEO of Flagship Pioneering, a firm he founded in 2000. During his over 25-year career as inventor, entrepreneur and CEO, he has co-founded and helped build over 50 life science and technology start-ups. He has also been senior lecturer at MIT’s Sloan School and at Harvard Business School since...
2000, teaching graduate-level courses on entrepreneurship and innovation.

Noubar is currently at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. Early in 2020, Moderna Therapeutics, a firm he co-founded in 2010, began developing the first vaccine against the new Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and, in collaboration with the National Institute of Health in the US, began human clinical trials in early March. Following additional human trials and potential FDA approval, Moderna could provide an important part of the human health solution needed to defeat this pandemic and revitalize economies throughout the world.

Believing in giving back and the importance of philanthropy, Noubar and Anna established the Noubar and Anna Afeyan Foundation, which supports educational and cultural projects primarily in the USA and Armenia. They are also Co-Founders of the YerazArt Foundation which since 2006 has supported young Armenian talents performing in the classical music field. Apart from UWC Dilijan, Noubar is also actively engaged in several development projects related to Armenia. He co-founded early initiatives such as Armenia 2020 and the National Competitiveness Foundation. He is also a Co-Founder and sponsor of the Foundation of Armenian Science and Technology (FAST) and the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative.

A young man of tremendous intellectual curiosity and eagerness for new knowledge and experiences, Manas knew he wanted to study in UWC the moment he learned about the movement. He comes from a middle-class family in India. Generous support from Konstantin and Svetlana Nikolaev for his scholarship brought Manas to UWC Dilijan where he excelled in academics and became a valuable member of the community, fully benefiting from the UWC Dilijan experience. Manas has been accepted to Harvard University.

Lizi was shaped and grew as an artist at UWC Dilijan. She is now a student at Ringling College of Art and Design in Florida, majoring in Fine Arts and minoring in Business of Art and Design. Shortly after leaving Dilijan Lizi had a solo exhibition in Tbilisi, at the Georgian National Museum and almost all the works shown there were created at UWC Dilijan. Her dream came true thanks to Sergey Sarkisov and Rousudan Makashvili who generously supported her scholarship to study at UWC Dilijan.
5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
18 OCTOBER 2019

This day was a festival of creativity, internationalism and diversity. It was also an occasion for the community to come together to celebrate and reflect.
TAVUSH TEACHERS SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

UWCD staff, in collaboration with the Dilijan Community Center, have been conducting free training sessions for the teachers of the Tavush region. Starting from April, the webinar participants can learn about the tools that make the online teaching process more effective.

GLOBAL CHALLENGE IN DUBAI

In November 2019 our student team participated in the FIRST Global Challenge in Dubai with the robot which they had programmed, designed and built. Team Armenia won "Dr. Mae Jemison Award for International Unity", was ranked 43 amongst 191 countries and was awarded the "Safety Award."

ORIZURU PROJECT WEEK FIRST

Our Japanese students organized Orizuru Project Week of origami workshops, presenting the Japanese culture and the story of Sadako Sasaki – a victim of the nuclear bomb, who established the crane-making tradition. They made 1000 paper cranes with local Armenian school children and sent them to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park to deepen the relationship between Armenia and Japan, and to tell the story of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

YEREVAN DEBATE ACADEMY

Yerevan Debate Academy is a project initiated and led by our students in collaboration with COAF and Global Bridge. The goal is to develop debating skills and to foster civic engagement among the Armenian youth. In May 2019 the Academy held two-day workshops and a one-day tournament with participants from Yerevan, Lori region, as well as other parts of Armenia.
EXTRAORDINARY GRADUATION OF 2020 CLASS

March has been a truly emotional month that divided the UWCD life into “before” and “after” coronavirus days. On March 14, once it became clear that most students would be travelling back home to join their families, we got together for an impromptu 2020 graduation ceremony. It was an extraordinary, spontaneous, one-of-a-kind event. By the end of the month, the majority of our students returned to their home countries safely and continued their studies online. Thirty-six students who remain on campus were provided with all the loving care and support. Everybody – students and staff – took the new reality in their stride with an even stronger appreciation of the universal human values we all hold dear.

THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

In early 2019 the 5th Anniversary Committee was established to provide overall guidance to UWC Dilijan and its Board in relation to the programme of events, communications and fundraising activities over the 2019-20 academic year, the school’s anniversary year.

Given the COVID-19 situation, the Committee decided to extend the 5th Anniversary campaign to the 2020/21 academic year. It will focus on raising funds for scholarships.

We are very grateful to the members of the Committee:

- **Anna Afeyan**, UWC Dilijan Board Member and Founding Patron, Committee Co-Chair
- **Veronika Zonabend**, UWC Dilijan Board Member and Founder, Committee Co-Chair
- **Deana Arsenian**, Vice President of the International Program, Carnegie Corporation of New York – External Community Representative
- **Manana Hakobyan**, ‘16 UWC Dilijan Graduate, currently a student at Berkeley University – Alumni Representative
- **Arman Jilavian**, Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and IDeA Foundation Representative
- **Alice Petrossian**, Education Consultant – External Community Representative
- **Maximilian Count of Solms-Laubach**, initiator and coordinator Princely houses | Bearers of culture – Parent Representative

Click here to visit the 5th anniversary page
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2019/20 ACADEMIC YEAR IN NUMBERS

226 STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES

40 TEACHERS FROM 15 COUNTRIES WITH 3 FROM ARMENIA

58% OF STUDENTS ON PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

80 STAFF FROM 45 COUNTRIES FROM ARMENIA

31% OF STUDENTS ON FULL SCHOLARSHIPS

15 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS FROM CONFLICT REGIONS & REFUGEES

388 ALUMS FROM 105 COUNTRIES

UWC Dilijan is the first school in Armenia to become a member of the Council of International Schools. CIS is a membership community committed to high quality international education. It includes more than 1300 institutions – 734 schools and 622 colleges and universities representing 116 countries. The next step is to start the process of accreditation – a commitment to continuous improvement.

UWC DILIJAN IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

9000 COMMUNITY HOURS PER YEAR

3000 LOCAL KIDS ATTEND CO-CURRICULAR PROJECTS

1700 TEMPORARY JOBS IN DILIJAN

OVER 80 EVENTS AND FESTIVALS IN DILIJAN

ESTABLISHED THE ANNUAL SERVICE DAY IN DILIJAN

280 PERMANENT JOBS IN DILIJAN
UWC Dilijan is an independent not-for-profit international boarding school belonging to a charitable trust registered in Armenia solely for educational purposes and overseen by an all-volunteer Board of Trustees.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE
VISIT WWW.UWCDILIJAN.ORG
OR CONTACT

GABRIEL ABAD FERNÁNDEZ | Head of School | head@uwcdilijan.am
NAIRA MANOUKIAN | Head of Fundraising and Communications | n.manoukian@uwcdilijan.am | +374 93729258

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