

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Fall 2022

**WELCOME  
BACK!**



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear UNIS Community,

There is nothing like the energy that fills our campus at the beginning of every school year. You can see smiling faces no matter where you go as old and new members of our community come together after spending some time apart. It has been especially exciting to see our parents dropping off students and sharing breakfast with them in the cafeteria. Our campus feels whole once again.

We took advantage of the summer break to update our campus. The playground area was completely redone with recycled materials, and it has been rewarding to see our students enjoying the new playground area. Laughter and fun can be heard throughout the day during recess. The cafeteria was painted and new lights were installed, and we can't wait to be able to use the new assembly hall, which will provide some much needed additional seating space during lunch.

In this edition of our magazine you will find a welcome letter from Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, our new Chair of our Board of Trustees, additional information on the Board, a bit of an insight into each division and new community members, and information about our 75th anniversary celebration! I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the school year on the UNIS campus!

Best,  
Dan

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear members of the UNIS community,

In my new role as Chair of the UNIS Board of Trustees, I am very happy to welcome everyone back to school. I think we all feel an extra bounce in our step this year, carefully hoping for normalcy after several challenging years where Covid-19 was such a dominating influence on both the academic and social life of the School.

I come to the UNIS Board as a former UNIS parent, with my youngest daughter just having graduated this past June, and also as someone with a lifelong career with the United Nations and other international assignments. It is a privilege for me to now take on a role where I can help steer the School, being forever mindful of its close connection to the UN. I would also like to warmly welcome three other new members of the Board of Trustees: Ms. Amanda Dubois, Mr. Ofer Ohad and Mr. Babatunde Omilola, who are all UNIS parents. I encourage you to read more about their background on the UNIS website, under "Governance" [[www.unis.org/about-unis/governance](http://www.unis.org/about-unis/governance)].

As I take on this new role, I find encouragement in the strong and vibrant UNIS community, and our shared commitment to make UNIS the very best it can be, a school with excellent academics, a caring and nurturing environment, and an exciting and sustainable future. I am also inspired by the excellent leadership provided by the previous Chair, Catherine Pollard, in leading the Board's work and championing the School.

For now, I wish everyone a productive and rewarding school year, and look forward to working closely with the UNIS leadership and community in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Izumi Nakamitsu  
Chair  
UNIS Board of Trustees

# UNIS TURNS 75

## JOIN THE CELEBRATION.



This month UNIS celebrated its 75th first day. We are proud to reach this milestone as a school and as a community.

Our 75th anniversary celebration is being held on Saturday, 15 October 2022 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. We would love you to join us. You can purchase tickets at the link below.



This year we are taking time to appreciate our past as well as where we are heading.

Link to purchase tickets here:  
<https://www.unis.org/75th>



# OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the fulfillment of the mission of UNISand 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 UNISCommunity, the United Nations and the Member States and Observers of the United Nations as Honorary Trustees of UNIS.



**Izumi Nakamitsu**  
Chair of the Board of Trustees



**Lisa M. Buttenheim**  
Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General for UNIS



**Ambassador  
Dr. Mohamed Al-Hassan**  
Trustee



**Agnes Bamuwamye**  
Co-Chair of the  
Health and Safety Committee



**Mauricio Barberi**  
Vice-Chair of Board



**Maaïke de Langen**  
Trustee



**Pierre Alexandre  
de Looz**  
Chair of the Buildings, Grounds, &  
Security Committee



**Lena Dissin**  
Secretary of the Board



**Amanda Dubois**  
Trustee



**Caryn Groce**  
Vice-Chair of the Board



**Fernando Gutierrez  
Eddy**  
Chair of Advancement Committee



**Bruno Lazard**  
Trustee



**Etienne Locoh**  
Chair of Finance and Audit  
Committee



**Stephen Margetts**  
Vice-Chair of the Board | Chair of  
Strategic Planning Committee



**Ofer Ohad**  
Trustee



**Dr. Babatunde Omilola**  
Trustee



**Roberto Pagan**  
Co-Chair of the Health & Safety  
Committee



**Dr. Roser Salavert**  
Chair of Academic Policy  
Committee

# MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome 4 new members to our Board of Trustees. They joined the board "kick-off" earlier this year and bring new energy and commitment to their duties.



**Izumi Nakamitsu**

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu assumed her position as Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on 1 May 2017. Prior to taking on this post, Ms. Nakamitsu served as Assistant Administrator of the Crisis Response Unit at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 2014. She has many years of experience within and outside the United Nations system, most recently as Special Adviser Ad Interim on Follow-up to the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants between 2016 and 2017. She was previously Director of the Asia and the Middle East Division of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations between 2012 and 2014, and Director of the Department's Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training, from 2008 to 2012.



**Amanda Dubois**

Trustee

Amanda Dubois has been an independent commercial theater producer since 2004, a member of the Broadway League since 2005 and serves on the Advisory Council of the American Theatre Wing. Ms. Dubois has several shows in various stages of development.



**Ofer Ohad**

Trustee

Ofer Ohad is a founding member and Managing Partner at DBI Projects, a project management and real estate advisory firm headquartered in New York City, with projects throughout the U.S. and around the world. He is the proud parent of a UNIS middle schooler.



**Dr. Babatunde Omilola**

Trustee

Dr. Babatunde Omilola is an international development expert and Head of the Public Health, Security, and Human Development Division of the African Development Bank Group. Babatunde has been associated with the United Nations International School, New York since 2015.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR BOARD MEMBERS**



**FIRST DAY OF  
SCHOOL**



# MEET THE NEW STAFF AND FACULTY



**Belen Martelletti**

Physical Education Teacher



**Alexander Hahn**

Science Teacher



**Stephanie Johnson**

MS English Teacher



**Martina Sivori**

Spanish Teacher



**Juan Pablo Vivar Casas**

HS Science Teacher



**Tatsuki Sakamoto**

Japanese Teacher



**Araceli Comesana-Martinez**

Spanish Teacher



**Jennifer Kelly**

MS Advisor



**Juan Minano-Guirao**

Spanish Teacher



**Lilly Zhao**

HS English Teacher



**Madeline McBroom**

JS Theatre Teacher



**Fernando Plou Espinosa**

Spanish Language Teacher



**Daniella Musmani Brenes**

Director of Communications



**Lamproula Galiatsatou**

Executive Assistant to the  
Executive Director



**Christine Pluta**

Director of College Counseling



**Scarlett Spager**

Digital Communications  
Strategist



**Patrick Martinez**

Associate Director of  
College Counseling



**Minal Dhand**

Associate Director of  
College Counseling



**Valeria Urcuyo Castro**

MS Counselor



**Charles Edwards**

HS Counselor



**Basile Lvoff**

Russian Language Teacher



**Ann Van den Borne**

Physical Education Teacher



**Remi Beek**

Health Teacher



**Francesca Di Matteo**

Italian Language Teacher



**Cleha Kodama**

HS Math Teacher



**Parwaneh Rezai Sepasi**

Science Teacher

**Not Pictured:**

**Manuel Henrique**

**Manuel**  
Math Teacher

# UNIS TEACHER FEATURE



## KIMXUAN-HUYNH BREZINSKY

Our teachers are what make UNIS so special. Kimxuan has been at UNIS for 52 years and is an important part of our community.

### **Q: What do you teach at UNIS?**

A: Until 2020 I taught French and TOK, from 2021 I am teaching only French.

### **Q: What do you love about teaching?**

A: I love being with youngsters and knowing that my work has an impact on them. ( Ex: the love for knowledge).

### **Q: What is your favorite memory from UNIS?**

A: Being in a class of 14 students with 12 nationalities in my first year at UNIS. My monthly meetings with the Board of Trustees during Kofi Annan's tenure were a master class in diplomacy.

### **Q: What is your favorite lesson to teach?**

A: In TOK: the lesson on Ethics. In French: the lesson on the Arts.

### **Q: What do you love about UNIS?**

A: The students and my unforgettable encounters with two persons who made the most impact in my life as a teacher (Sylvia Gordon, my mentor, the founder of UNIS-UN) and as a student of leadership (Dr Joseph Blaney, UNIS director).

# WE WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF AND FACULTY FROM QUEENS

---



**Barbara Kennedy**

Administrator for Special Projects



**Farideh Abassian**

Teaching Assistant & Lab Specialist



**Karen Andrews**

JS Music Teacher



**William Axmacher**

Physical Education Teacher



**Claire Bourne**

JS Teacher



**Stephanie Claps**

Learning Support



**Theresa Echevarria**

JS Teacher



**Mike Gentles**

Core Manager



**Novo Lekocevic**

Maintenance



**Elizabeth Lou**

Teaching Assistant



**Donna Lydon**

JSTeacher



**Lisa Moore**

Librarian



**Rebecca Murry**

Design Technology Teacher



**Shauna Nugent**  
Art Teacher



**Dr. Glenn Pollack**  
Psychologist



**Theresa Rodriguez**  
Administrative Assistant



**Lucia Romero**  
Spanish Teacher



**Caroline Rowland**  
French Teacher



**Nini Selwanes**  
Science Teacher



**Nadine Sébag**  
French Teacher



**Aparna Shah**  
Math Teacher



**Susana Solano-Annunziata**  
Spanish Teacher



**Freddy Tejada**  
Maintenance



**Christa Van Alstine**  
Band Teacher

**Not Pictured:**  
**Christina Chung**

JS Teacher

**Jacob Elkin**

Music Teacher

**Daniel Falcone**

MS Teacher

**Monica Robbins**

English Teacher

# THE NEW PLAYGROUND



Our Junior School and Middle School students have been playing, laughing and having fun at the new playground every day.



# CAFETERIA UPDATES

A school's cafeteria is a natural hub for students. Our cafeteria underwent several updates that elevate the entire space. A fresh coat of paint compliments the color of the floors and new overhead lighting makes the space bright and inviting. Lunch time has never looked better!





# THE NEW ASSEMBLY HALL

An integral part of this summer's renovations at UNIS is the new Assembly Hall. This space gives our students more much needed space, as well as opens up our first floor for larger-scale events. We are awaiting approval to use the space but it will be open to students shortly.

# WHERE TO NEXT?

Travel is a rich tradition at UNIS, and the office of student life has big plans as we are stepping away from a complete pause on student trips abroad. M4 students will travel to Peru and Morocco this spring which is an encouraging sign that we are moving past the obstacles of the past two years

a better world



**UNIS**  
united nations international school



Week without walls is back to its true form for this fall. The program will once again return to being an overnight three day excursion where students will bond with their classmates as well as learn problem solving and team-building skills during this period.

# THIS IS JUNIOR SCHOOL



Our Junior School students jumped right into the new school year! We are quickly building community among students and teachers, learning routines and procedures, and developing the IB Learner Profiles.



# A GLIMPSE INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL



On day one, our Middle School students filled the hallways with enthusiasm and excitement. They are ready to take on a new adventure of the next school year.



# A LOOK INTO THE TUTORIAL HOUSE



Our Tut House students have jumped back into their academics and extracurricular activities enthusiastically.



# SHOW YOUR UNIS PRIDE

 [unisathletics](https://www.instagram.com/unisathletics)

*on Mondays*

**WEAR  
WHITE**

**WEAR  
BLUE**

*on Fridays*

VISIT THE STORE TO GET SOME SWAG



# UPCOMING EVENTS

---

**75th Anniversary Celebration:**  
Saturday, 15 October 2022 from 7:00  
pm to 10:00 pm

**UN Day Observed:**  
Monday, October 24 (School Closed)

**October Break:**  
Tuesday October 25 -  
Friday, October 28 (No Classes)

**Parent/Teacher Conferences:**  
Wednesday November 9,  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences:**  
Thursday and Friday November 10 and  
11, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (No Classes)

**Thanksgiving:**  
Wednesday, November 23 to Friday,  
November 25 (School Closed)

## NEED TO CONTACT A PRINCIPAL?

**Junior School:** Pascal Vallet  
[pvallet@unis.org](mailto:pvallet@unis.org) | (212)584-3061

**Middle School:** Elaine Kelly  
[ekelly@unis.org](mailto:ekelly@unis.org) | (212)584-3014

**Tutorial House:** Antoine Delaitre  
[adelaitre@unis.org](mailto:adelaitre@unis.org) | (212) 584-3148

a  
better  
world

← enter here →

a better world   
**unis**  
united nations international school

**UNIS Magazine Fall 2022**

**[www.unis.org](http://www.unis.org) | +1 (212) 684-7400**

  **[unisny](#) [#unisproud](#) [#unis75](#)**