

1947-2022



Fall 2022

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

**CELEBRATE**  
**75 YEARS**

A group of students, mostly young men, are playing violins in an orchestra. They are wearing dark clothing and are focused on their instruments. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and the setting of a school or concert hall.

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you once again to all who were here on Saturday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of UNIS. We had a wonderful time celebrating 75 years of excellence in international education with so many who are near and dear to this wonderful institution.

We were honored to host the Chef de Cabinet, Mr. Courtenay Rattray representing the Secretary-General, our Board Chair, Izumi Nakamitsu, SRSG Lisa Bittenheim, members of the Board, former Board Chair Catherine Pollard, former SRSG Joan McDonald, Mr. Edward Mermelstein from the Mayor's office, UNIS leadership, alumni, parents, and friends for the evening, which included an exhibit of UNIS history throughout the decades for all to enjoy.

UNIS is the school of the UN, and as such, we honor our close relationship with the UN. Its tenets are embedded in who we are and how we operate as a school. It is a school built upon the cultural diversity and relationships of students, parents, and teachers, where you walk the halls and it seems like you are inside a mini United Nations. This is part of what makes our school so special and makes us look forward to what the next 75 years of UNIS will look like.

Once again I would like to thank the Sultanate of Oman, and our Guest of Honor for the evening, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Al-Hassan, for their generous donation that allowed us to open the magnificent Assembly Hall. This week has been wonderful to see the room in use (FINALLY), providing some much-needed space during recess and lunchtime. I cannot wait to continue to use the space for different purposes in the coming weeks.

This celebration marks a time for us to think about what the future holds for us. Generous support from UN member states and UNIS community will continue enriching the international environment students are immersed in as they adopt the values and principles of the UN and push UNIS forward into the next 75 years.

Please take a few minutes to watch this video that hopefully captures the next 75 years.

Best,  
Dan

**Future of UNIS**

# 75TH CELEBRATION



Our community came together to celebrate 75 amazing years of UNIS, our history and our future. A live exhibit of our stories, photos and videos brought our history to life for the celebration. A performance from our TH camerata celebrated our present which is so rich in our students' growth as the product of an excellent education. Oman's generous donation is helping UNIS take a step toward its bright future with the inauguration of the new Assembly Hall.





# 75TH CELEBRATION





# ALL ALUMNI REUNION



The all-alumni reunion was a great addition to our 75th celebration weekend. There were representatives from 31 different graduating classes from 1972 to 2022. Current and former faculty and staff also joined the festivities which included the dedication of "Barry's Booth" a tribute to the community's beloved Barrington Calvert.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE AT THE UN

Our Tut house students headed to the United Nations to represent UNIS for Peace Day celebration. They listened to inspiring guest speakers and met with them after to share their stories. Our students made their presence known by actively listening, questioning, and participating in this momentous occasion.



# WEEK WITHOUT WALLS

## T1: SHARPE RESERVATION FUND

For their first Week Without Walls experience, T1 enjoyed many activities that included petting chickens, taking brave leaps, buckets of teamwork, and battling it out in a game of Trivia Mania! Their trip successfully created the first of many WWW memories that will last a lifetime.

## T2: TRIP DOWN THE DELAWARE

T2 had a brave and unique WWW experience. In one day the group used their canoes to go thirteen miles down the Delaware. After the group was done setting up camp, they enjoyed a barbecue dinner and fun social time. Students braved the cold temperatures with a smile.

## T3: TRIP TO CAMP GETAWAY

Bonding was the theme for the T3 trip to Camp Getaway. The group sang and danced together on their first evening, but day two was all about adventure. Students challenged each other to push their limits on ropes courses, hikes, sky bikes and ziplines. T3 left with the spirit of adventure and many new UNIS memories.

## T4 TRIP TO CONEY ISLAND

T4s completed a series of IB workshops and hosted an "Ask Me Anything" with the T3s, where the T3s could get tips, clarity, guidance, suggestions, etc. regarding IB preparation. After they completed their IB group 4 project, On Friday afternoon, students enjoyed some free time at the historic Luna Park on Coney Island, a chance to de-stress in what is a most stressful year!



# WEEK WITHOUT WALLS



# FRANKENSTEIN Q&A WITH DIRECTOR SIMON BELL

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**Q: We heard you adapted the version yourself! Could you tell us a bit about that process?**

A: The starting place was trying to create a theatrical version of the book as Mary Shelley intended it to affect an audience, rather than a simple retelling of the narrative. I also wanted to make something that was surprising and unexpected considering that Frankenstein and his Creature are so well known. Shelley was only 18 when she wrote it and she wasn't trying to corner a market or to write a well-behaved novel of her time. She was actually trying to shake things up a bit. Both her and the people she hung out with were social revolutionaries so there's a lot of anger in it and there's also a desire to change the world in the way we rely on the young to bring that fire to things. There's a lot of that in Frankenstein and I hope it comes over in the play. Also, she was kind of breaking the model because no-one had ever written a book quite like this before so I hope the originality of it also comes over. That was the thinking behind writing the adaptation. The literal process involved re-reading the novel MANY times to decide what was essential to the storytelling. I cut the framing device Shelley uses as I felt I was re-framing it through her as a character. I also re-watched the National Theatre's production of the play as it was so outstanding I wanted to be a magpie and steal certain ideas!

# FRANKENSTEIN Q&A WITH DIRECTOR SIMON BELL

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## **Q: How has working with this cast been?**

A: Such a joy! This is a hugely talented group of young people and everything I throw at them they are running with full steam. This is in no way a conventional production and this wonderful cast have embraced that. Although there is a script, much of the action has been devised and the cast and I, along with my excellent assistants Miki and Anna, have all worked collaboratively to devise the staging. The collaborative nature of our rehearsals has been one of the highlights. We also have a brilliant crew who have been working hard behind the scenes and I hope everyone who comes to watch will see that hard work shine through. A thoroughly enjoyable, moving and thought-provoking evening awaits our audience!



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UNIS PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# FRANKENSTEIN

NOVEMBER 17-19

7:00 P.M.

# UNIS TEACHER FEATURE



## MADELINE MCBROOM J1-J4 Theatre

**Q: What's a fun fact about you?**

A: I know how to Highland Dance.

**Q: What is your favorite show or project that you've worked on in the arts at UNIS?**

A: This is difficult because I love them all, but I especially loved working on Singin' in the Rain back in 2018 because I was able to teach the J3 & J4 students how to tap for their performance. They tapped beautifully by opening night and walked away with a new skill too!

**Q: What is your favorite way to take in the arts in NYC?**

A: Going to see musicals and plays on Broadway every chance I get or heading to a spot that has live music in the city!

**Q: What's an important lesson you've learned from your students?**

A: Passion over Perfection. I love being able to see my students light up about something they are passionate about. I also love seeing the resilience they have to keep working hard to reach whatever goal is presented in front of them.

# GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM



The seniors described the game as, "emotional, but exciting," as they stepped into their last home game at UNIS. The girls rocked the packed gym full of classmates, teachers, friends, and family and took one last home victory.

## TEAM ROSTER

Charli Skinner  
Milica Grozdanic  
Helena Rocha  
Naomi Brown  
Sofia Tambalott  
Millicent Vizinberg-Honor  
Keira Hanlon  
Nina Rhode  
Anna Luise Schubert  
Chloe Skinner  
Sophie Chen  
Iman Agha  
Maddie Berna  
Asa Mases



UNITED NATIONS  
TRANSFORMING  
EDUCATION  
SUMMIT 2022

# EDUCATION SUMMIT

## Students who attended:

Antonio Athias (T4)  
Sophie Chen (T4)  
Mikayla Pyke-Sharpe (T4)  
Chloe Skinner (T4)  
Millicent Honor (T3)  
Xuan Lan Tran (T3)  
Donato Castellucci (T2)  
Corinne Massey (T2)

On September 16, UNIS TH students attended the *Transforming Education Summit* held at the UN. These students all shared an interest in the future of education and represent school organizations such as UNIS-UN. They spoke with a Big Education Conversation representative and learned the importance of youth voices. As said by the Secretary-General "One thing is to listen the other is to integrate them into the decision making."



# CLUB FAIR

Club Fair is an important part of back to school for the Tut House. The tradition serves as an opportunity for students to see the different clubs in action all at once so that they make an informed decision of which ones they wish to join. Upperclassmen in leadership roles got to show T1's all that UNIS has to offer.

While joining clubs is the goal of the day, club fair also allows students to share their ideas with other students who they might not share the classroom with. We want to thank the student council and the office of student activities for putting this together!



# EDUCATION MINISTRY VISITS

UNIS was fortunate to host the Portuguese and the Spanish Ministries of Education during the UN General Assembly. Officials sat in on classes and talked with students about their life at UNIS, their international studies, and their language learning.



# CARBOARD CHALLENGE

UNIS held our 8th Annual Cardboard Challenge on campus this fall! This fun event gets our students to think about the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Students got to flex their creative muscles and work with their friends and families to make functional art out of repurposed materials. They also shared laughs, smiles, and now memories that will last a lifetime!



# MS CAMPS

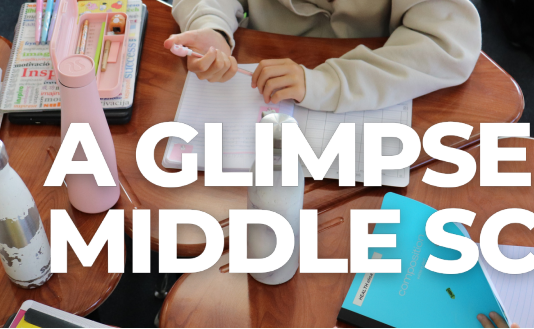




THIS IS  
JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Junior school has been busy this fall! Students learned more about the International Day of Peace together, spent more time enjoying our new playground additions, and had a blast at the cardboard challenge!





# A GLIMPSE INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL



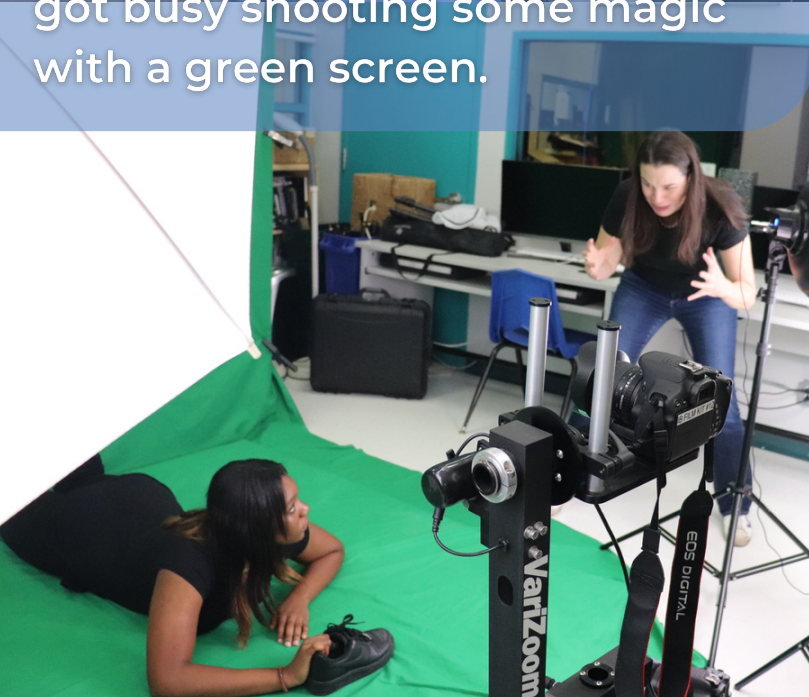
The Middle School hallways are more exciting than ever as students settle into their schedules and laugh along with new friends.



# A LOOK INTO THE TUTORIAL HOUSE



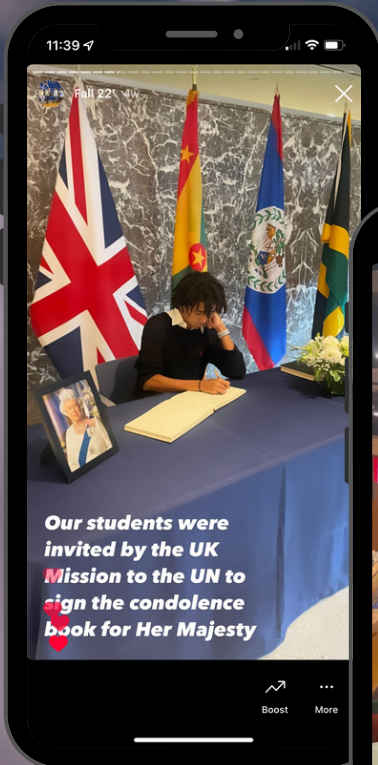
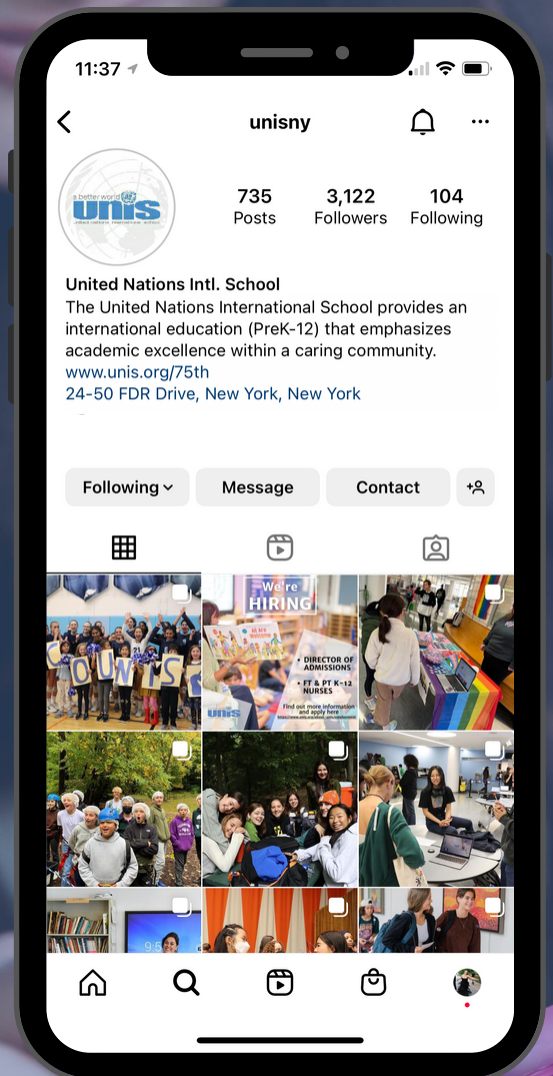
Tut House is always booming with exciting projects, and this fall was no exception. This IB Film class got busy shooting some magic with a green screen.



# FOLLOW US!

To stay up to date on all things UNIS, follow us on Instagram and Facebook to see our stories!

 **UNISNY**



# 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

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## **UN Day Observed:**

Monday, October 24 (School Closed)

## **October Break:**

Tuesday October 25 - Friday October 28  
(No Classes)

## **Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences:**

Wednesday November 9,  
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

## **Day Parent/Teacher Conferences:**

Thursday and Friday November 10 & 11,  
8:30 PM- 3:00 PM  
(No Classes)

## **Frankenstein:**

November 17-19, 7:00 PM

## **Thanksgiving Break:**

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





## 75 years of UNIS | *Shaping a better future*

The United Nations International School (UNIS) was established in 1947 by a group of United Nations parents to provide an international education for their children while preserving their diverse cultural heritages. Since its inception, the School has been guided by the spirit of the United Nations Charter and has benefited from a unique relationship with the Organization.

The initial dual purpose of UNIS was to provide educational facilities for the children of Secretariat and delegation members and to serve as a pilot project in international education. Today, the School has a population of approximately 50% UN families and 50% international and local families not employed by the UN. The mission of the institution today is to provide an inclusive and diverse learning environment focused on academic excellence. 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.

Over the last 75 years, thanks to the United Nations, the school facilities have welcomed students, faculty, and staff. In addition, through the hard work of the administration and the teachers, the School has developed a world renowned reputation for its rigorous academic international program that offers instruction in nine languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish), a rich humanities curriculum, intricate studies in mathematics and the sciences (biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental sciences). Complementing the academic program, students study the arts via music, performing arts, visual arts, and film. In addition, physical education, competitive sports programs, outdoor environmental education, language immersion trips, and a plethora of opportunities to participate in service learning projects, expose students to diverse experiences. In the 1960s, UNIS helped develop the International Baccalaureate program and the School administered the first IB exams in 1971.

From its inception, the School relied heavily on support from the UN. The initial location of the Guest House at Lake Success, the procurement of apartments in Parkway Village, the affordable rent on 70th street in Manhattan, the temporary locations on 51st and 54th streets, the purchase of a school and the adjacent plot in Jamaica Estates, and the \$1.00 a year rent for 99 years for the pier jutting out into the East River at 25th street in Manhattan were all made possible by the United Nations and the relationship the organization had with the Mayor's Office of the City of New York. Furthermore, the United Nations provided the seed money for the School's Development Fund and secured donations from the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation for the foundation and construction of the new school building one mile south of the UN Headquarters on the East River.

In addition to the physical spaces, numerous UNGA Resolutions provided the school with financial support. An education grant provided for UN Families ensured that the primary mission of the school "to serve the UN Community" was always met and that the student population remained international. Over the years, the UN has helped the School procure G-4 visas for teachers coming from all corners of the globe. Equipment such as tables and chairs, calculators, books and computers, printing services, translation services, legal, and security advice as well as donations from member states were all made possible by the UN.

The greatest gift to the School has been the dedication and support of every Secretary-General since Trygve Lie. The Secretary-General's presence at UNIS events, from opening day to celebrating UN Day, to opening student conferences, to visits at the school, to ultimately presiding over the graduation ceremony at the United Nations, their rally for support from member states, their dedication to the furtherance of international education and their passionate outreach to inspire future generations have been abundantly clear throughout the 75-year history of the School.

Today, the connection to the United Nations is as strong as ever. The Board of Trustees is appointed by the Secretary-General, and the Board Chair has always been a UN employee. The appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNIS has provided for an individual who works tirelessly as the link connecting the school to the UN. It is a link that has strengthened through the years.

UNIS students visit the UN and don the blue helmets of peacekeepers in kindergarten, learn the art of negotiation and understanding at peace tables in the Junior School classrooms, are inspired to care for their environment and take action around the 17 SDGs in Middle School, have the opportunity to meet and discuss current issues with UN Permanent Representatives and international dignitaries in the Tutorial House, celebrate UN day together and learn first hand about each other's cultures through the sharing of traditions and the examination of today's pressing issues through national and international lenses.

Today we are proud that UNIS is "the school of the United Nations."

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UNIS is "the school of  
the United Nations."**

**Please enjoy this historical exhibit of 75 years of UNIS and join us in making history  
as we embark upon the next chapter of shaping a better future.**

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

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**UNIS Magazine Fall 2022**

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