

UNIQUELY



UNIS
HANOI

SUMMER 2018

Amazing Alumni!

Dr Barder joins our global family | P.36-47

30th

Birthday Blast!

A year of celebrations | P.28

Magical Maths

It all adds up to success | P.16



UNiquely UNIS!

The first international school in Vietnam. The original IB World School in Asia. One of only two United Nations international schools in the world.

Currently, the school of choice for a record 1,123 students representing 64 different nationalities and over 300 faculty and staff from 25 countries.

Without a doubt UNIS Hanoi is unique. But what makes us UNiquely UNIS?

Is it the UN Principles that underscore all that we do, or our core Values? Is it our overarching commitment to **Learning**? Or is it that we expect **Responsibility** from every member of a **Community** that we treasure above all else?

Yes! UNIS Hanoi is guided by all of the above - every single day - and in partnership with every single member of our community.

Our Vision to be a learning community that is an inspirational role model for a better world is the driving force behind all that we do.

This is our identity. And within the pages of this bi-annual magazine, you'll soon see that this is what makes us UNiquely UNIS.



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From Values to Vision

UNIS Hanoi is an exceptional place to learn - It is the ideals and principles of the United Nations in action every day!

We are proud to be a learning community that celebrates cultural diversity, unleashing the creativity and innovation that comes from bringing the world together on one campus. Our students are curious, compassionate and confident. They understand, and are committed to building a better world. And they are undaunted by the boldness of a vision that is both inspiring and intimidating.

We are a learning community committed to every child's happiness and believe that it is the quality of relationships within our community that empower exceptional learning.

We are determined that our students are challenged and nurtured by exceptional faculty in order to realise their full potential and test their most aspirational goals, both in and outside the classrooms. Our teachers' passion for innovative learning, both for our students and for themselves, inspires excellence.

And it is that ambition for excellence for all, driven by a shared vision and underscored by shared values, that shaped our strategic plan for the School and our students' futures.

The plan, Strategy 2020, uses our core Values as the driving force to shape the future: Learning, Community and Responsibility are the Values that both underpin and impel all that we do at UNIS Hanoi.

Those Values have shaped goals which were crafted during three months of careful consultation with, and by listening to, our community's many voices, and it is our commitment that we will continue to strive for our community's hopes and dreams together.

The depth and breadth of Strategy 2020 can be discovered in detail on the UNIS Hanoi website but in brief, it is three goals which put our Values into action, each with detailed objectives to turn vision into reality.



Excellent Learning

Excellent Learning will be the focus and the result of the efforts of all members of the school community. UNIS Hanoi is committed to moving all learning to new levels, so that every hour of every day spent at UNIS Hanoi provides excellent learning opportunities. If we want our young people to thrive in the future we need to be clear about what this means.

Strategy 2020 Goals

Connected Community

In an increasingly turbulent and uncertain world, it has never been more important to connect on a human level. Relationships matter, and they start with our local community. The networks we create in the wider world will lead to collaboration and a building of collective knowledge that would be unachievable if we were to act alone. Our connected learning community will generate our sense of who we are now and what we will become.

Community with No Bystanders

Because we belong to the UNIS Hanoi community, we have unique opportunities to make a positive impact on others. Our impact can be global or local, influencing what goes on in Vietnam and what happens in the school playground. This means not standing on the sidelines when action is needed, building bridges and extending our responsibility beyond our own immediate concerns and by seeing ourselves as responsible and principled individuals who are truly able to make a difference to the community as a whole.

Excellent Learning

At UNIS Hanoi we define learning as the “process of creating meaning through acquiring, applying and synthesising new skills, understandings and knowledge.”

We believe that Excellent Learning is taking place at UNIS Hanoi when learners are:

- Extending their thinking and making thinking visible
- Modifying their thinking, behaviours and attitudes
- Developing new understandings and perspectives
- Reflecting on their learning experiences, their strengths and areas for development
- Transferring their learning to other settings and contexts
- Making connections to what they already know and can do
- Cooperating, collaborating and communicating in a variety of social contexts as well as being confident to learn independently
- Appropriately challenged and actively engaged
- Active, have frequent opportunities to move, transition and to process information
- Aware of the significance and relevance of their learning
- Encouraged and nurtured in learning environments characterised by supportive and mutually respectful relationships.





CULTURE OF COACHING

At UNIS Hanoi, students aren't the only learners. Teachers are constantly learning, too.

They share resources with each other via email and social media. They talk teaching after class and in the canteen. Every Wednesday afternoon when students leave school early, teachers devote time to their own professional development.

And, they are learning how to coach each other.

UNIS Hanoi's vital focus on professional development for teachers has led to a multi-year emphasis on building a "culture of coaching" around the school. The goal? To inspire both

teachers and students to help each other find learning success.

Most of us are familiar with sports coaching, where an authority figure helps athletes get better at their particular skill.

The model for educational coaching, known in the teaching world as "cognitive coaching," has a somewhat different inspiration. It takes its name more from the four-wheeled 'coach' or bus, a means of transportation that will take you from where you are to where you want to be.

Cognitive coaching is a professional approach successfully used in the education world for decades.

Based in brain science and cognitive psychology, it applies research in how humans understand things to the classroom. The cognitive coaching approach helps teachers develop a deeper understanding of how they teach and how they can help their students—and each other—learn better.

According to Glenda Baker, Deputy Principal for the Middle and High Schools at UNIS Hanoi, coaching of this kind is not a job, but a practice. "Adults learn from reflecting on experience, not by sitting in a lecture," says Glenda.

Thus, a change in classroom teaching comes most easily when another educator walks beside a teacher—not as an authority figure like a traditional sports coach, but as a colleague—and helps them think deeply about how they can improve their craft.

At UNIS Hanoi, a culture of coaching means creating an atmosphere where everyone inspires the best in others. It means fostering a community where students and teachers alike can be owners of their own growth and development.

“Our business is learning, for all of us,” says Beth Murray, a full time maths coach for the Elementary School. So it makes sense that, for a school that prides itself on excellent learning, teachers and staff are cultivated as lifelong learners as well as students.

We all know that athletes practice continually to get better at their sport. Computer programmers constantly strive to keep up with revolutions in software and coding. Nurses and doctors learn new techniques to stay on the cutting edge of the medical field.

In the same way, teachers teach best when they practice their craft and keep up with the latest developments in their field.

“UNIS Hanoi wants to attract and retain the best teachers,” says Elementary School Principal Megan Brazil. “We can hire the best teachers by offering amazing learning and growth opportunities for them.”

UNIS Hanoi already has a reputation as a school where teachers are nurtured and supported. The current commitment to a “culture of coaching” aims to better that reputation as the School continues to be a top choice for experienced international educators.

Participating in professional development opportunities not only keeps teachers personally current in the world of international education, but it pays dividends in the classroom, too. At UNIS Hanoi, teachers are constantly putting their learning into

practice to help students engage more deeply with educational material.

This year, to help instill the Culture of Coaching mentality across the campus, the School devoted significant teacher time and professional development resources to bringing in three education professionals for sessions with faculty and staff.

In August, internationally known sports psychologist Greg Dale talked with sports coaches, students, parents and administration about how to maximise student potential on the field and in the classroom.



Dr Fran Prolman visited in November and worked with teachers on promoting student agency, the idea that students achieve best when they take responsibility for their own learning.

Then, in January, 50 teachers and administrators went through a four day training with Ochan Powell, a well-recognized specialist in cognitive coaching. As part of the School’s Strategy 2020 and its commitment to building and maintaining excellence, UNIS Hanoi has invested in her return for the next two years.

The School has also created educational coaching positions. In the Elementary School this past year, two experienced classroom teachers served as full time maths and technology coaches. Two Middle

School and High School teachers also dedicated part of their time to coaching both students and colleagues in maths and English.

These coaches find, then share, the best resources in their subject area, curating educational learning for teachers busy in the classroom. They also come into classrooms to team teach and demonstrate new techniques.

The presence of educational coaches helps teachers analyse their teaching in real time, layering a professional conversation about a learning unit’s effectiveness over the lesson even

while they are teaching it. And the instilled culture of coaching means no one is passing judgment or becoming defensive over feedback, but rather sensitively and collaboratively improving the teaching and learning experience for all.

“Cognitive coaching is a way of speaking, of listening and of reflecting deeply on your practice,” says Megan. She wants to help teachers be always critically analyzing their work then setting learning goals in a continuous loop that leads to better education school-wide.

Megan articulates a vision shared across all divisions of the School, to “set up a culture where teachers are constantly coaching themselves and each other. Everyone helps everyone grow.”

COACHING IN ACTION - A CASE STUDY

Aaron Davis loves to teach. And like all our teachers, he's always striving to get better at what he does. Enter Elementary School teaching coach Beth Murray.

Together, this dynamic duo has transformed maths learning for Aaron's Grade 3 students at UNIS Hanoi, with positive effects that have rippled out far beyond his first floor classroom.

Walk into that classroom and you will see evidence of a collaborative learning space. Bright orange chairs cluster invitingly around group-work tables. A corner with a couch and bean bag is a perfect place for informal student conversations.

All school year, Aaron worked hard to help his class work and learn together. He's happy that, with Mathematics Extension and Enrichment Coach Beth Murray, he also found a great partner for the kind of teaching collaboration that helped him learn, too.

“I've always relished the opportunity to work with knowledgeable colleagues,” says Aaron. “I'm always asking Beth questions, and she's always open. She wants to have deep conversations about how to effectively teach children.



“It's so helpful to have someone to collaborate with.”

As a teaching coach, Beth employs the principles of cognitive coaching where the coach is not the holder of higher knowledge, but instead a fellow learner. Her job is to be an expert set of eyes and ears looking out for ways to help teachers like Aaron succeed in

their mission to positively direct student learning.

Beth loves to bring maths resources alive for teachers and students. She has an office but isn't tied to it. Instead, she relishes her time spent in other teachers' classrooms. At the beginning of the year, Aaron was one of the first to invite her in.



“Aaron is such a reflective learner,” Beth says. “He has great questions and makes me think. We have a fantastic professional dialogue.”

Aaron and Beth have taught many maths lessons together in Aaron’s classroom. This year she enjoyed helping Aaron think creatively about how to meet students’ learning needs

while also challenging them as his class covered fraction concepts.

Aaron is happy to have help in his classroom. He and Beth have built a relationship where neither feels judged or evaluated by the other, but supported instead. “Beth is making me a better teacher,” Aaron says.

Beth knows how important it is to have a teaching coach dedicated to professional growth. During more than a decade of classroom teaching in the United States, she had a mentor whose work inspired her to her present position.

“When you have someone whom you can bounce ideas off of, who is excited about the same things, who listens and you feel safe to take risks with, that is really freeing,” says Beth. At UNIS Hanoi for nine years and in a coaching role for two, Beth has found

satisfaction in being a mentor for others.

Beth’s work fits in with the larger emphasis that UNIS Hanoi places on professional development. “The School is really focused on developing teachers,” Beth says. “We value learning for both students and staff. The more growth that teachers experience, the more that will have a positive impact on students in the classroom.”

Aaron appreciates that, at UNIS Hanoi, he gets a lot of encouragement to become a better teacher. “We really have a culture of learning here,” he says. “At UNIS I always feel like I’m being pushed to do better.”

From his teaching in five schools across three countries, Aaron says, “UNIS is the best place I’ve ever worked.”





TALENTED WORLD CHANGERS

The UNIS Hanoi Class of 2018 has graduated! Their hard work and dedication has made them the School's newest alumni. With a solid foundation of learning and community support, they are well placed for success as their careers take shape.

Together they have taken train rides, zoomed down zip lines and explored caves. They have spiked volleyballs, scored penalty kicks and swam laps. They have prepared bánh mì and built robots, played violins and sang in musicals.

"The Class of 2018 love to be given a platform to showcase their talents," says Elliott Cannell, Grade 12 Level Leader. "They are inspirational performers who have much to share with the rest of the world."

"Their determination and ambition stands out," says Faraz Mirza, economics and humanities teacher selected by the class to speak at Graduation. "Their balance inspires me, and their artistic side is amazing."

Most importantly, the Class of 2018 are lifelong learners ready to help find solutions to local and global problems.

In completing their CAS—Creativity, Activity, Service—requirements, they have championed the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the School and around the community. And now they look forward to changing the world through degrees in fields such as computer science, fashion, film, international relations, medicine and urban design.

"Congratulations to the Class of 2018 on a successful close to your time at UNIS Hanoi," says Dr Barder, Head of School. "As a class, you have continued the School's strong tradition of academic excellence, extensive co-curricular participation, impactful service learning and engagement with global issues."

"The School is proud of your accomplishments and wishes you well as you put your learning into practice for the next stage of your life."

66
students
representing 21
nationalities

10
languages taken
as literature

29
graduates
studied for
bilingual diploma

11
destination
countries for
university
applications

190
university offers
of admission

1,731,728
USD in self-
reported
scholarships
offered

From being flowers together in an Elementary School play to young women empowered to find their way in a global society, three students from the Class of 2018 graduated in May having spent their entire school career at UNIS Hanoi.

Ha Nguyen, Lan Anh Foster and Hannah Nguyen all came to the School at three years of age. First enrolled in Discovery, the School's youngest class, over 15 years they have seen UNIS Hanoi change and grow.

"At first UNIS was the tiniest school," Hannah remembers. "And then every year it got bigger. I think now it's the best school in the country."

Born in Vietnam, the friends always shared UN Day together in their traditional Vietnamese áo dài. "Lan Anh and Hannah are my life friends," says Ha.

Though based in Vietnam for their growing-up years, the friends appreciate the global diversity they experienced through UNIS Hanoi. At the School, "The world comes to me," Ha says. "Studying here since a little kid has opened me to different cultures and people."

"I try to focus on being kind and caring toward others, because UNIS wants you to grow up to be that kind of a person who respects other cultures and is an advocate for your own."

Service to others is a common theme for these three graduates. At the School they volunteered with Operation Smile, Habitat for Humanity, Chuc Son Orphanage and Peace Village. Ha helped found a student-led group, Sanse, supporting Vietnamese students in Lao Cai.

Most recently, the three students became teachers as they taught English to children of UNIS Hanoi Vietnamese staff with Learners for Learners, a service group Hannah started herself.

They appreciate that UNIS Hanoi has let them be creative with their interests and learning. Separately, they have been on the swim team, held leadership roles in Model United Nations (MUN), played cello in the orchestra, tutored their peers in the Writing Lab, produced short films and acted in school plays.

"We have such a huge opportunity as UNIS students," says Lan Anh. "UNIS Hanoi has been such a big part of my life. It's helped me think about the world in a positive light, because UNIS is quite optimistic in saying that you can make a change, you just have to apply yourself."

As new graduates, Ha, Hannah and Lan Anh's next move will be going out into the world to apply themselves to their university studies and eventual careers. They are grateful that their UNIS Hanoi education has prepared them for the rigours of university classes, and for the challenges—expected and unexpected—of studying in another country.

"Everything I've learned, I've learned at UNIS," Ha says. "It's my home away from home. Who I am as a person is the person that UNIS raised me to be."

No longer children stepping on each others' áo dài as they go down the playground slide at the end of their first UN Day, these three friends leave UNIS Hanoi as global citizens ready to apply School values and learning wherever their future takes them.

Life Friends "RAISED" BY UNIS HANOI!



SAMPLING OUR SENIORS!



Success from failure! Johana Jarkulischova

Czech Republic
Grades 3-6 and 11-12

Johana Jarkulischova's story of perseverance starts with garlic.

For her International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme extended essay, she wanted to investigate the antibiotic properties of this aromatic cousin to the onion. Three times she examined twenty plates of meticulously-prepared garlic. And three times her efforts to get experimental data failed.

Then came the breakthrough. Almost ready to scrap her experiment, she reached out to a professor at a university in her native Czech Republic who helped her think through an alternative approach.



She decided to prepare the plates of garlic one last time. She waited. And then... success!

"UNIS has taught me to think on my own and not just accept things as they are," Johana says. From her extended essay experience, "I learned the value of taking risks, keeping an open mind and getting a fresh perspective. Sometimes you have to fail, and through that you learn."

Johana hopes to put her passion for biology and chemistry into the study of pharmaceutical sciences at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. "I'm looking for a school like UNIS," she says.

The art of globalization Anya Ngo

Vietnam
Grades 6-12

Born to Vietnamese parents living in Russia, when Anya Ngo's family moved back "home" to Hanoi, she sometimes felt like a stranger. But at UNIS Hanoi she found friends among third culture students like herself.



"I like being in a diverse setting and having friends from different countries," Anya says.

The standout artist's graduation exhibition, titled "Future Histories," featured themes of globalization applied through the traditional techniques of ceramics and lacquer painting.

Using traditional Vietnamese mediums has helped Anya forge a stronger connection with her country's heritage. Juxtaposing classic motifs with pop culture references—such as a traditional dragon alongside an image of Kim Kardashian—her exhibit explored themes of time and tradition within a changing world.

Anya is grateful that UNIS Hanoi art teacher Michelle Wise helped her dig deeper into artistic expression and reach high to discover what brings her joy. Ms Wise, Anya says, "pushes her students and guides them through the creative process. She is a great mentor because of the personal touch she has."

Next year, Anya plans to study hospitality in Switzerland at the Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne. On breaks back in Vietnam, she hopes to sneak back into Ms Wise's classroom to shape her future history in ceramic once more.

Setting a stage for life

Koko Christiaanse

Netherlands
Grades 9-12

When Koko Christiaanse came to UNIS Hanoi, she had never before performed in a musical. But in her first year, she got a part in the dark comedy *Little Shop of Horrors*.



As a soprano in a chorus of three street urchins, “I remember being tutored and taken under the wing by the two others, who were both older than me,” Koko says.

Since then, she has been a part of every School musical, play and Asia Pacific Activities Conference (APAC) theatre festival on offer. Now, as a senior, Koko is the mentor reaching out to younger students and including them in the collaborative production process.

“We have a really strong theatre community,” she says. “I like how the students support each other.”

But Koko knows she is more than simply a character in a play, and she’s grateful for the way UNIS Hanoi has helped her evolve and mature. “I’ve gone from a kid to a young adult,” she says, as the School has helped her “try out new things and achieve who I want to be.”

Koko’s next theatre for achievement will be Amsterdam University College, where she plans to pursue an honours degree in the liberal arts. And that’s a life stage that Koko feels well prepared for, thanks to UNIS Hanoi.

Freedom to learn

Jae Min Yoo

Republic of Korea
Grades 9-12

Jae Min had a problem. The international maths association quizzes that he looked forward to solving were too easy.

So he did what any enterprising UNIS Hanoi student would do: he made his own maths competition. Working together with friends, he organised a lunch time arithmetic group and invited others to join.



“We wanted more,” Jae Min says. “Why not make competitive, hard problems?” Teachers were supportive, and students had fun taking on a home-grown challenge.

“I have a lot of freedom to do things here,” Jae Min says, and that has helped him passionately pursue his interests in maths and science.

This past March, his hard work paid off with a bronze medal at an Asia-area maths competition and an invitation to the world finals in Melbourne.

Freedom to learn, and have fun too, at UNIS Hanoi also led Jae Min to play violin in the orchestra, smash winners on the varsity tennis team and help a local beekeeper improve his house through a service learning group.

Jae Min plans to study chemistry or medicine at UC Berkeley in the United States or at one of the top universities in his home country, then find a way to help others with his career. “I want to use my knowledge to make an impact,” he says.

Finally saying goodbye!

Joel Tamura

Japan
Grades 4-12

When he found out his mom's job would take the family to another country in the middle of his Grade 11 year, Joel Tamura didn't know what to do. But with support from his mother and from a friend's family who offered him a place to stay, Joel decided to remain at UNIS Hanoi and graduate from the school that he loves.



"It was a pretty big decision," Joel says. "But my mother is very adaptable and open minded, and she's tried to raise me like that, too. I really like UNIS, and I didn't want to say goodbye."

Joel feels much more prepared for going away to college since he has already had experience living away from his family. Academic offerings at UNIS Hanoi also helped Joel pick his university course of study in computer science.

In Mr Murphy's computer classes, Joel says, "I was instantly hooked. I really enjoy the work we have to do at UNIS and the sense of camaraderie in class."

While Joel looks ahead to a promising career at university and beyond, he is sad that his time at the School is ending. To him, UNIS Hanoi is almost its own nationality. Though everyone is from different backgrounds, "Somehow, we all fit perfectly."

Joel plans to study computer science, with a particular interest in artificial intelligence, at a university in England.

Joel was honoured with the Student Choice Award at Graduation in May.

All-around leader

Yoav Shahar

Israel
Grades 7-12

When Yoav Shahar graduated in May 2018, he could look back and know he had satisfied his curiosity about many subjects. At UNIS Hanoi, "I dabbled in all kinds of things," says Yoav.



He shot hoops and banged drums. He sounded his saxophone in concert bands and orchestras, and went to the Asia Pacific Activities Conference (APAC) band festival all four years of high school.

Yoav wrote for school newspaper *The Flame*, studied literature in English and Hebrew, and took Higher Level Maths. He delved into technology, investigating the properties of light and teaching himself computer code.

But it was in Model United Nations (MUN) and volleyball that he became a leader. Part of the MUN team through High School, as Co-Secretary General for MUN in Grade 11, "I made an impact," Yoav says.

This past year, he stepped back a bit from MUN leadership but stepped it up during volleyball season. As one of the oldest players, "I had a lot of experience and advice to share," says Yoav.

"I helped create an inclusive team atmosphere and never let anyone give up on themselves."

After graduation, Yoav hopes to pursue a degree in physics following a period of service to his country. It's easy to imagine that he will carry his UNIS Hanoi-honed leadership skills and curiosity with him wherever he goes.

Yoav was honoured with the Council of International Schools Award and the Phoenix of the Year Award at Graduation in May.

MAGICAL MATHS

For James Tanton, maths is fun. Maths is intense and exciting. Maths is an explosion of numbers that, with perseverance, happily forms into clean, simple solutions.

James is a former high school maths teacher with a PhD in Mathematics from Princeton University in the United States. Now the Mathematician-at-Large for the Mathematical Association of America, James visited UNIS Hanoi in March and, for two action-packed days, inspired the School with his passion for numbers.

During a workshop for teachers, James launches into an energetic soliloquy on the quadratic equation. He stops. "Having fun?" he asks. He's modeling good teaching as he asks his audience for feedback.

And those in attendance are indeed having fun. They are volunteering answers, asking questions, taking notes. They share insights from their own classrooms and highlight ways to apply James's enthusiastic approach.

For James, the joy of solving a problem is the heart of mathematical happiness. He urges teachers to delight in the sense of discovery that is still fresh for their students.

Later, in Ms Tina's Grade 5 classroom, engaged students light

up at James's infectious enthusiasm for numbers. Clustered around group tables, they follow the lesson closely.

"How crazy do you want this to be?" James asks in the middle of a maths problem.

"Crazy!" the students shout. So he makes it crazy.

There are sound effects—Kaboom! Poof! There are maths 'machines' that students draw on their whiteboard tables. There are dots that explode and re-form as James and the class work together to solve mathematical puzzles. And there is laughter.

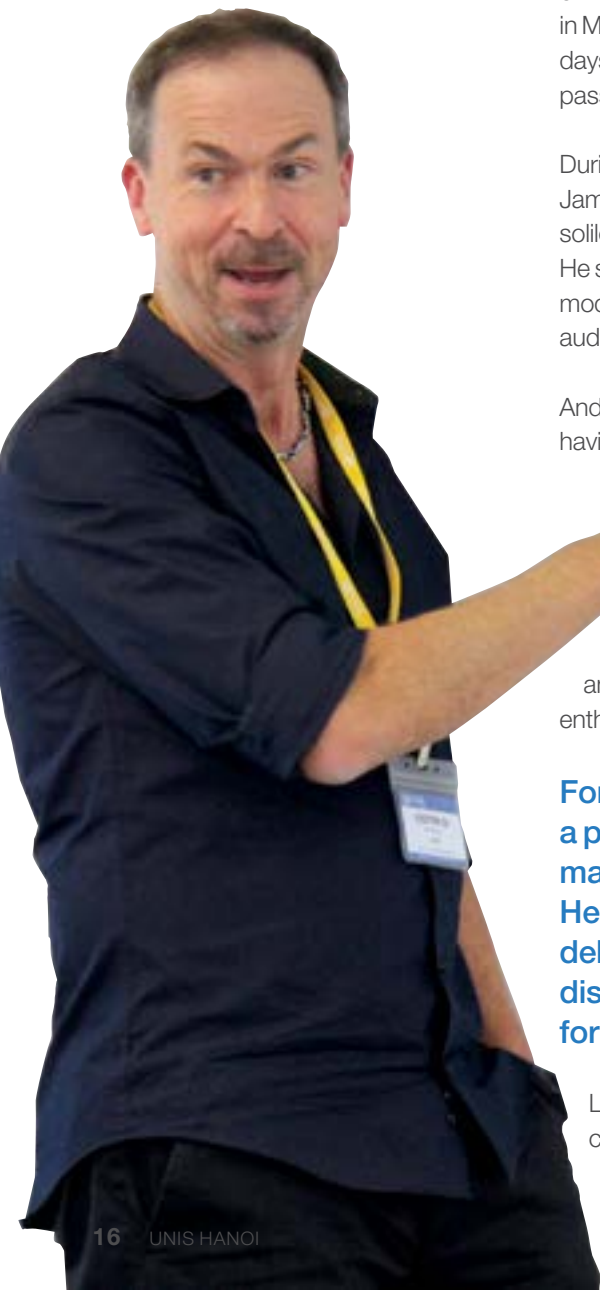
For many, this style of playful teaching isn't always associated with maths. But James is convinced this is how students learn best.

His fellow fifth grade mathematicians agree. "I loved what we learned," reflected Grade 5 student Sieun Park. "I will work harder than last time. I think I love maths more."

Parents liked Mr Tanton's approach as well. Kacper Wozniak attended a parent session with his two children. "James Tanton was making maths visual, which was new for me," said Kacper. "It was a simple way to teach, and his approach helped me understand how maths works."

After his two days at UNIS Hanoi, James praised the School mathematics community. "You are in a lovely position," he said to a group of teachers. "You are talking to each other. You have a supportive administration."

"Work hard to let math shine, and have a human experience of mathematics together with your students."





JOYFUL MATHS INSPIRES STUDENTS

At UNIS Hanoi, students are excited about maths. And the chances for Middle and High School learners to explore and engage with mathematical concepts have been getting better and better.

Through competitions, enrichment coach positions and visiting experts, the School has a growing investment in maths learning across the upper division classes.

“It’s about the beauty and the joy of it,” says Medeha Zahid, Head of the Middle and High School Maths Department. She dedicates a portion of her time as an enrichment coach for teachers and students, and appreciated how maths expert James Tanton reinforced the joy of learning on his March visit to the School.

“There’s so much beauty in mathematics, and when the students find those gems it’s really inspiring,” Medeha says.



Increasing involvement in maths competitions has created fresh enthusiasm for maths in the Middle School and High School programmes. The School has been participating in the American Scholastic Mathematics Association (ASMA) contests, a series of structured quizzes about mathematical problem solving.

UNIS Hanoi learners also look forward to competitions like the Hanoi Math Olympiad, which was born through a collaboration between UNIS Hanoi High School maths teacher Neil Fairbairn and a colleague from Hanoi International School.

Started in 2012, this year the competition was attended by 11 local schools. UNIS Hanoi has won the overall first place at the Olympiad for three years in a row.

UNIS Hanoi students have also explored maths more deeply on their own, creating a student-led competition. “They were so excited and motivated by what they saw in the Olympiad that they wanted to recreate that moment,” says Neil.

This past school year, Neil and fellow maths teacher Dave Wiggins also trained budding mathematicians for the Northeast Asia Math Competition in Beijing. The trip exceeded expectations. Eight of the students won invites to the world competition at the University of Melbourne.

“We were really pleased with how engaging and fun the event was,” says Medeha, “and with how much hard work the teams put into it.”

At UNIS Hanoi, everyone pulled together across disciplines to help students prepare. Since presenting creative posters and videos was an integral part of the event, the art department helped plan artful posters. The film department contributed tips on how to make engaging videos.

This broader approach to maths skills is a big emphasis for UNIS Hanoi teachers. “It’s not just about math knowledge,” says Neil. Teachers strive to spark dialogue between students and encourage opportunities to creatively express the ideas behind mathematical solutions.

“This is what keeps me going,” Neil says about his two decades of maths study and teaching, “the moments with students that make me look at mathematics in a whole different way. That’s a special thing, and I get goosebumps every time.”



PLAY + DESIGN = LEARNING LABORATORY

A new Grade 1 play space that helps first graders learn and engage with each other socially is being supported by Grade 7 and 8 Design students, who have created toys and structures for the play area.

The play space is the brainchild of the Grade 1 teaching team; Penny Snedden, Kristin Partridge, Anna

Murray and Sue Freeman. They wanted to increase play opportunities to help students transition more easily from Kindergarten 2 to Grade 1.

Working with School administration, the team formed a research-based plan to dedicate the last period of the day to play. With support from the Operations team, they transformed an

underused outdoor space into a play-based learning laboratory.

“Play is essential to learning,” says Grade 1 teacher Kristin Partridge. “While the first graders are using the space they are practising life long skills like critical thinking, communication and problem solving all while doing hands-on learning.”

The shady outdoor play area features a play kitchen, a craft corner, a puppet theatre, a plant garden and more. Students fly paper airplanes, play restaurant or excavate in the dirt for rocks. Teachers debrief with reflective conversations and rotate activities weekly.

The students love the new space. “We can be with our friends,” says Grade 1 student Grace Matic. “We are learning how to be creative and try new things.”

“One of our goals was to create a community of learners across the Grade 1 classes,” says Grade 1 teacher Penny Snedden. Playing with students from different classrooms “has really helped our English Language Learners, as they can practise social language skills with new friends.”

In addition, the play time reinforces math and science concepts from the classroom, helps the children learn about the natural world and continues their fine motor skill development.

The play-based learning project has also become an educational opportunity for Middle School Design students. Building toys and structures for the play area is giving Grade 7 and 8 students an authentic design experience creating purpose-built items for clients.

Design students visited the play area, asked the first graders for ideas then



sketched concepts. After holding a vote with the first graders, the Design students made prototypes of the most-liked objects and built them in the School’s woodshop.

“The level of engagement is the best I’ve seen,” says MS Design teacher Brycen Davis. “The students are expanding their design thinking skills and gaining exposure to working with real-world clients and problems. They love the hands-on work, and they are motivated to create things for fellow students.”

The Design class built play phones, a mailbox, wooden cars, a spaceship playhouse, a sitting bench and more.

Grade 1 students eagerly followed the progress of the requested products. During a visit to the woodshop, they were excited to see the toys take shape. Middle School Design students also received valuable feedback.

“We asked the Grade 1 students what colour they wanted,” said Grade 7 student Mark Prasertjing, who was making toy cars. “We already made a red and blue car with our chosen colours, and the students suggested to add orange and yellow, which made us have a better insight into what colours the students really wanted.”

First graders were eager to start playing with the new toys. “I voted for the chair and for the spaceship,” said Grade 1 student David Karolyi. “I like the spaceship. I will play games in it.”

When Middle School student Audrey Hanson showed Grade 1 students how the spaceship would fit together, they gave feedback that altered the design. “After discovering what the Grade 1 students like,” Audrey said, “we are trying our best to please them. It’s fun to see our ideas come to life.”

It has also been fulfilling for the Grade 1 teaching team to watch their play-based learning ideas become successful as a result of their year-long professional inquiry.

From struggling to keep students engaged during the last period of school, the current end-of-day play in the new space “is the best part of the students’ day,” says Penny. “It’s magical to watch. Every single child is engaged.”

The first grade teachers hope to continue refining the play space and adding new elements. They note that parents are extremely supportive of the play programme and appreciate how the School values play for young learners.

Students moving into Grade 1 next year certainly have a lot of fun play and learning to look forward to!



A BOAT, 3 ROBOTS, AN AIR HORN AND... SUPERCANE



The UNIS Hanoi student-made cardboard boat had already completed two trips across the pool. It had floated for 10 seconds with three of its Middle School makers inside.

The other seven boats built by international school teams from around the region had sunk. One challenge remained: float all four UNIS Hanoi boat makers inside the cardboard canoe.

The fourth student stepped in. The boat wobbled, then steadied. The

duct tape that waterproofed the boat's bottom was getting soggy but holding tight. And for 10 long seconds... everyone stayed dry!

This dramatic scene played out during a March 2018 STEAM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics—event at the International School Ho Chi Minh City (ISHCMC). UNIS Hanoi participated with a Middle School and a High School team in the event, which was sponsored by the Mekong River

International Schools Association (MRISA).

UNIS Hanoi participated in the competition to expose students to the range of disciplines and the problem-solving skills necessary to successfully design, build and showcase a product.

In addition to crafting their cardboard boat, the Middle School team also built three Lego robots, coded a simple pong game using the Java programming language and soldered circuits to make a simple alarm sensor.

“The MRISA STEAM Fair was about interdisciplinary, project-based



learning,” says Paul Swanson, the coach for UNIS Hanoi’s High School team. “It engaged students in authentic learning and allowed them to show their understanding at a depth that tests and quizzes can’t come close to.”

The High School team’s STEAM project also included a component central to UNIS Hanoi’s culture, that of service. At the event, a team of five showcased the innovative Supercane, a cane for the visually impaired that includes a distance sensor. When the user of the cane comes close to an obstacle, the cane vibrates an alert.

After taking the cane to the STEAM fair, students continued their learning by trialing the design at a school for the visually impaired in Hanoi. “It was a very eye-opening experience,” says Grade 9 student Long Tran of the visit to the school, “because before we were basing the cane only on our own ideas.”

“We got a lot of feedback on how to improve the device,” said Supercane teammate Alex Getschmann. Visually impaired users gave pointers on how to change the cane’s shape to improve its feel and asked the students to add a sound alarm in addition to the vibration.

Adding an aspect of service to the project made it a deeper experience for the STEAM team.



“I came to learn about STEAM,” says Long. “I stayed to make things that help people.”

At the STEAM fair, UNIS Hanoi High School students were also assigned to inter-school teams tasked with building a mobile phone amplifier that used no electricity. Students journeyed to a local market to buy materials, within a given budget, then built their creations in ISHCMC’s maker workshop.

One of the teams featuring UNIS Hanoi High School students came first in that competition for their amplifier made out of an upcycled truck air horn.

Collaboration was an integral part of the fair’s learning, notes Russel Fleming, coach for the Middle School team. Disagreements on his team had led to a poor showing in the Lego robot part of the competition. But they learned that lesson, and when it came to building then testing their cardboard canoe in the pool, the students demonstrated they could work together even under pressure.

“They learned to work as a team,” Russel says. “They failed on one task because they didn’t work together. But when it came to building the boat, they realized that getting work done on time,

dividing up tasks and trusting each other would allow them to succeed.

“They had the only boat that completed all four challenges and held four people. It was awesome!”

High School coach Paul agrees that learning the value of teamwork and how to solve problems together was a central part of the STEAM event. He admires his team for their collaborative effort and for their dedication to the Supercane project.

“It wasn’t assigned to them,” he says. “It’s not counting toward credit for a class. It’s doing something for the love of designing and building and making, and to be of service to others.

“The students’ own curiosity has been driving the process. That’s authentic education.”



Connected Learning Community

In an increasingly turbulent and uncertain world, it has never been more important to connect on a human level. Relationships matter, and they start with our local community. The networks we create in the wider world will lead to collaboration and a building of collective knowledge that would be unachievable if we were to act alone. Our connected learning community will generate our sense of who we are now and what we will become.



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PROGRESS IN PARTNERSHIP

Children are more successful at school when their parents are engaged with their learning. It is this firm belief that has led UNIS Hanoi to partner with parents and create and implement an action plan for broadening parent engagement at the School.

More than 600 parent volunteer positions contributed more than 11,000 hours of support for school projects, events and programmes last year alone, and this dedicated community makes all the difference at UNIS Hanoi.

From friendly chatter at pickup time to helping with a snack sale, from coaching Saturday Soccer to masterminding the Spring Fair, from helping award project grants to supporting co-curricular activities with the Boosters, parental involvement has broadened the School's sense of community.

"UNIS gives parents so many avenues to get involved and work with the School," says parent Rozeth de Vass Gunawardena. "I have met some amazing people while volunteering, many of whom are now like my family."

Most importantly, increasing connections between parents, faculty and administration leads to a higher level of educational success. Parental engagement has been shown to have a direct positive effect on student learning.

With a view to better serve students, UNIS Hanoi has undertaken a multi-year commitment to strengthening parent-school engagement, taking partnership to a new level for learning. Directly linked to the Board of Directors' strategic plan for the School, a Parent Partnership Task Force was created at the start of the 2016-17 school year with representation from parents and every School division.

The Task Force started by asking fundamental questions. What is parent-school engagement? How is it understood by our community? Why is it important? How can we measure its impact? Recognizing the need for help and to go beyond traditional surveys or focus groups, UNIS Hanoi brought in an expert consultant to help find answers. And who better to study people, than an anthropologist?

Stine Cooper was engaged by the School to look more deeply into the parent experience at UNIS Hanoi. Holding a masters degree in Anthropology, she has applied her studies in a range of sectors including work with major brands in both Denmark and New Zealand to understand and enhance customer experiences.

Stine brought an outside-the-box approach to her work with the UNIS Hanoi community. Applying

anthropological research methods, she chatted with parents at events and at home, had them create 'mental maps' of the School and walked with them to pick up their children. She also conducted interviews with UNIS Hanoi teachers and administration to understand the school perspective on parent engagement.

Stine found that both the School and parents were looking for an educational partnership based on trust. However, trust is traditionally built through connection over time and shared cultural references, neither of which are immediately easy in a highly transient international community of more than 60 nationalities.

Building and demonstrating trust with parents is now central to School planning.

Parents entrust the School with their children's education, yet also want to be invited in to experience the enthusiasm for learning evident everywhere at UNIS Hanoi. "The classroom is where the excitement is," says Stine.

Stine's recommendations centered around better connecting parents to UNIS Hanoi's vibrant learning environments. Events like the Elementary School open classrooms "are a huge eye-opener for parents," says Stine. "Parents feel they have a better idea of what happens at school."

Her ideas to create more inviting spaces for parents to feel more



comfortable on campus have resulted in a renovation of the Community Room in the administration building, where many parent meetings are held.

"The School wanted to help parents feel like the room belonged to them and make it a more comfortable and friendly space," says Claire Driscoll, alumni parent and founder of art and design studio Work Room Four. Claire's studio redesigned the Community Room.

With work already completed in April of this year, the room now features softer lighting, colorful walls, and couches and chairs enlivened with UNIS Hanoi branded pillows. And the impact has been immediate. "The conversations and connections that we see happening are getting better and better," said Task Force member and Community Liaison Officer, Nathalie Grun.

School-parent communication was another area for improvement identified by Stine's research. Parents can easily feel the School provides too little, or too much, communication.



The School already hosts teacher blogs and this year invested in a more targeted way to deliver information to parents. Stine noted that teacher blogs increase parent engagement, creating positive connections to their child's experience at the School.

UNIS Hanoi has also undertaken a school-wide communication review. This Spring, supported by the Partnership Taskforce, the School Community Organisation (SCO) led an in-depth session with parents. Its aim was to identify strengths and weaknesses of current communication to feed directly into action planning for 2018-2019.

"UNIS Hanoi has a tremendously engaged and generous parent community," says Emma Silva, Director of Advancement and leader of the Parent Partnership Task Force. "But for sure, we are not currently connecting with everyone in a meaningful way, and we must do better. At the heart of all that we do are the students, and that is our shared passion with parents which we hope will forge powerful partnerships for learning and for the community."

And the Task Force's work is certainly appreciated. "What I like most about UNIS is how it values parent partnership, and the fact that the School works in close collaboration with parents," says Rozeth. "It's a novelty I haven't experienced in other schools."



PREPARING FOR Passionate Careers



During the UNIS Hanoi Career Day in April, Grade 10 student Duc Dinh learned that even the head chef at the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi had to start with the basics and a generous helping of luck!

As Duc sat with Executive Chef Paul Smart for an informal discussion about careers and cooking, "The only thing I know how to make is Cup O'Noodles," Duc admitted.

"The only thing I knew how to cook was cheese on toast," responded Mr Smart. His big break was an

accident — the head cook at the restaurant where he worked was sick, so he had to jump in as chef for the day.

Mr Smart was part of a successful Career Day 2018 that offered Grade 10 students, who were preparing to choose their Diploma Programme (DP) courses, an opportunity to think more concretely about their interests and future career path.

For an afternoon, 25 professionals came to the UNIS Hanoi campus to offer engaging presentations and informal question and answer

sessions. As the School prepares High School students for the opportunities that await them, "We continue to bring the real world in," said Head of School Dr Barber.

Representation from the 'real world' included Coca-Cola Vietnam, Raffles Medical Group, the International College of Arts and Fashion, Samsung Electronics, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, the World Bank and of course the United Nations.

Presenters described individual journeys, with many twists and turns,

to finding their passion. Their diverse set of careers included graphic and fashion design, nursing, renewable energy, world languages, corporate branding and football coaching. But common to them all was a positivity to grasp every possibility, and plain hard work.

“There is a lot of pressure on students to find a passion,” said UNIS Hanoi

“I learned that you don’t have to know what you want to do in High School to be successful,” said student Shay Smith. “A lot of people have taken a lot of time to get where they are.”



has furthered my career as I learned new things,” he said.

Career Day 2018 had some eye-opening moments for presenters as well as students. Networking over coffee, Hoan Le Thi Thuy of the Vietnam Women’s Museum and Elisa Fernandez Saenz of UNWOMEN were inspired to try something new.

Taking advantage of their Career Day connection, just like UNIS Hanoi students will do, they began planning together a Vietnamese Women’s Day celebration for October 2018. The event will be held on the UNIS Hanoi campus.

By the end of the day, presenters like Hoan and Elisa had helped Grade 10 students realise that a career is not always a straight line to success.

“Things won’t go the way you expect them to go, but follow your heart and trust your instincts and do what makes you happy!” said Claire Driscoll, founder of design and art workshop Work Room Four.

“Learn from every opportunity you are given,” said Ms Fernandez Saenz. “Learn and contribute at every step, and success will follow.”



High School Counsellor Casey Nolen Jackson. Like for Paul Smart, “Sometimes their passion has to find them.

“The sessions at Career Day increased students’ ability to think complexly about their career. We want them to have confidence to explore their gifts and talents.”

“It was really interesting to learn about different careers, hear people’s stories and get advice,” said Grade 10 student Sinead O’Brien about the day.

Presenters spoke enthusiastically about their successes, and honestly about their failures, as they shared job experiences with teenagers just starting on career journeys.

When a student asked, “What do you do in market research?” Chaitanya Reddy of Kantar TNS, a market research firm, held an impromptu 45-second focus group about sports shoe brands to demonstrate.

Mr Reddy urged students to be lifelong learners. “Every subject I’ve studied



30TH BIRTHDAY

This was the year that UNIS Hanoi celebrated 30 Years of Learning to Inspire, and what a year it was!

It all started on the 'first day of school' which in 1988 was on September 19, and so we took that day to kick-off our year-long celebrations. Phelix got the party swinging and the students who share the same birthday with UNIS Hanoi did the honours by blowing out the candles on our giant cupcake creation!

And no sooner were the candles blown out, students, faculty and staff all dressed in blue, were choreographed into position for the official birthday

photo marking the start of a most memorable year!

Throughout the year birthday reminders punctuated our activities, including the world premiere performance of a new School anthem, specially commissioned with the support of the School Community Organisation. Middle and High School students worked with composer Dr Corey Cunningham in a collaborative project which focused on unusual harmonies to celebrate the cultural diversity of our community. 156 musicians and choristes performed "Gathered Here From Every Place" just before Tet.

And the next show-stopping community event was our Spring Fair Birthday Party!

Record breaking crowds of more than 4,000 people poured onto campus to enjoy games, activities and food from around the world, with 15 different cultural tables serving up national dishes from every corner of the globe. Our festival stage entertained all day with a fantastic programme and the special day was coordinated for the community by more than 120 volunteers. All that community power raised more than \$39,000 USD which will support community events, project grants and charities.



AY B L A S T !

Finally, the year's birthday celebrations culminated in a special 30th Birthday Ball which saw the Sheraton Hotel ballroom transformed by a kaleidoscope of Hoi An lanterns, representing the UN's multi-coloured Sustainable Development Goals! Our UNIS Hanoi dragon kicked off the evening which featured Cabaret performances from our talented student, parents, faculty and Dr Barder himself!

A toast to 30 Years of Learning to Inspire and a toast to the next 30!



TRAILBLAZING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING



UNIS Hanoi's commitment to technology training for teachers in Vietnam continued this year with the School's local staff taking the lead.

At the sixth annual Vietnam Tech Conference (VTC) in March, UNIS Hanoi technology staff Hilary Nguyen and Nhan Nguyen solidified the School's status as an education technology leader for Vietnamese-speaking colleagues from across the country.

The VTC is a collaboration between UNIS Hanoi and Saigon South International School (SSIS), a forum for educators to collaborate around technology and learning. The 2018 conference on the UNIS Hanoi campus was the largest ever with 179 participants.

For the first time, the technology conference offered Vietnamese-language options during each of four workshop sessions. Hilary and Nhan made it all happen.

In addition to key roles organising the conference, both Hilary and Nhan led sessions in Vietnamese for fellow educators who might not otherwise have attended. Their sessions hosted around 20 attendees each, many of whom received half price admission, an incentive for Vietnamese speakers to attend. Colleagues from SSIS and from the British International School also led workshops in Vietnamese.

Coming to a technology conference in English can be intimidating to a teacher for whom English is a second language. But the VTC's native-language sessions offered a safe space for Vietnamese educators to deepen their learning.

"When we use our own language, sometimes it's easier to share and ask questions," explains Nhan, "and we feel more comfortable."

A commitment to improving education in its host nation is central to UNIS Hanoi's philosophy and to the VTC. "It's important that we give back to the

country and to Hanoi," says Director of Technology Ed Gilbreath.

Leading sessions in Vietnamese at the VTC allowed Hilary and Nhan to be trendsetters in their field. Nhan presented on app smashing, the process of using more than one app to create and finish a project. Hilary spoke on keeping students safe in the online world.

Presenting to their peers, they were happy to share UNIS Hanoi knowledge that will reach far beyond the school's walls. "We are helping to keep UNIS as a leader in technology," says Hilary.

It's given them a new community as well. "We made a lot of tech friends at the conference," says Nhan. She and Hilary started an informal group of technology educators around Hanoi who share ideas and help each other solve problems.

Hanh Nguyen, IT Officer at Hanoi International School, attended Nhan's session on app smashing and is part of the informal tech group. "Nhan's workshop at the VTC was very interesting," says Hanh. "Having the workshop in Vietnamese, it was easier for us to understand, and we could ask her lots of questions. I learn a lot from my Vietnamese technology friends."

Hilary and Nhan are proud to be part of a UNIS Hanoi tech team that is reaching out to the local community while maintaining the highest technology standards and equipment for its own students and teachers.



FROM LEARNER TO LEADER

A TECH JOURNEY

Cathie Matthews wasn't sure about Twitter. She'd done just fine as a K2 teacher at UNIS Hanoi without it. Why invest in something new?

Then came the 2014 Vietnam Tech Conference (VTC) and UNIS Hanoi tech coach Michelle Matias. And, with a little help from her fellow educators, an unknown technology became a cornerstone of Cathie's professional life.

Outstanding teachers like Cathie are always trying to get better at what they do. Years of collaborative learning through online courses and conferences like the VTC have transformed her from a slow adopter of new edtech—education technology—to a leader in the field.

"Four years ago Cathie wasn't really sure if the VTC was the place for her. Now she's one of the most active teachers on social media in the school," says Michelle.

Cathie's presentation at VTC 2018 showcased the way she has leveraged social media to improve her teaching. In her session, "From Lurking to Collaborating: Becoming a Networked Educator," Cathie

told her story of going from 'lurking' around the edges of educators' social media conversations to diving in and becoming part of the collaboration.

"I like pushing myself and then sharing what I learn," Cathie says.

Which brings us back to Twitter. Now, Cathie uses Twitter every day. She sees it as an educational community and resource. If she wants ideas for her student-led conferences, for instance, she goes to Twitter and searches for best practices posted by other educators. Then, she adds her own ideas.

"PD in your PJs," she calls it, professional development you can do in your pyjamas. And, she notes, it's free.

Cathie's edtech learning extends to her classroom as well. The iPads her students use aren't playthings, she says, but are tools to help them create. She's always looking for new apps her students can try and often leans on tech coach Michelle Matias for help introducing them.

"Being a female in a tech world, Michelle is a great role model," says Cathie. "She'll do demo lessons or team teach in the classroom. She pushes me out of my comfort zone."

And teacher transformation is what the VTC and the edtech movement at UNIS Hanoi is all about.



Cathie recently appeared at No. 22 on a list of "50 Asia Based Educators to Follow on Twitter." You can join her Twitter-sphere at @catherine_learm.

WELCOMING A NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL



As a child in Canada, Jane McGee loved to play school.

She would line up her dolls and stuffed animals in the basement of her family's Toronto-area house and teach maths on a large, old fashioned chalkboard her father saved from the one room school house down the street. Now, as the head of a school after

a successful teaching career, Jane still loves one-on-one interaction with students. In her current post at Vientiane International School (VIS), she's out front welcoming families almost every morning.

At the end of a typical day, she might be putting a Band Aid on a student's scrape, then heading to a meeting with the Minister of Education.

It is this combination of personal touch and empathetic authority that has become one of her 'hallmarks' and which she will bring to UNIS Hanoi as the new Head of School this coming August.

"Jane is a builder," said UNIS Hanoi School Community Organization (SCO) parent Garry Riechert as he welcomed Jane to a parent coffee during her

April visit to Hanoi. “She builds faculty, students and parents.”

Jane is also a listener, a trait she plans to emphasize as she settles in at UNIS Hanoi. “Jane is a quick learner,” says outgoing Head of School Dr Chip Barder, “and she listens really well. She has a wonderful ability to ask questions.”

As the head of an international school, Jane loves being a connector and a facilitator. “My role is to support the leadership team and the faculty and staff,” she says. “I like being in a position where people can bounce ideas off of me.”

Listening, observing and learning are skills that are central to Jane’s professional character. She plans to use her first weeks and months at UNIS Hanoi getting to know the personalities and procedures that make the School function.

“I’m very excited to be coming to UNIS Hanoi,” Jane said at the April parent coffee. “You have incredible programmes and amazing strengths. There’s a lot of great things happening here.”

It was the opportunity to look at the big picture and make connections across the educational experience that led her from math and science teaching in Italy, Egypt and Thailand into school leadership.

She became head of the mathematics department at International School Bangkok, then IB Coordinator and High School Principal at the American School of Warsaw. Next was an Assistant Superintendent position in Mumbai, followed by her current post as Director at VIS.

Jane enjoys working with a team to set a vision and looks forward to helping UNIS Hanoi continue to grow in excellence.

“It’s fun,” she says of the collaborative process of forging direction for a school. “It’s engaging. It’s exciting. You’re talking about making a difference in the lives of over 1,000 students. That’s an incredible opportunity.”

“Students are the heart and soul of what we do.”

Jane was excited to accept the position as Head of School at UNIS Hanoi because the School’s Values and Mission align so closely with her own. She sees intriguing connections between the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the International Baccalaureate Organisation’s (IBO) values of openness and caring as students consider how their actions make an impact on the world.

She was impressed that, at UNIS Hanoi, even the youngest students could share ideas about how to make the world a better place for themselves and for others.

It is this solid foundation of both internal learning and external engagement that Jane looks forward to helping the School build upon. She’s excited for the possibilities for her personal growth, too, as she learns a new cultural context and takes on the challenge of building on the School’s successes.

Jane is grateful for a well-thought-out transition plan and the opportunity to visit the School multiple times before she formally steps into her new role in July. She looks forward to exploring Hanoi as a new city resident, and to joining the UNIS Hanoi family.

“The sense of community and the reputation of the School is very, very strong,” she says.

Outgoing Head of School Dr Barder is sure Jane will successfully lead UNIS

Top 5 Things UNIS Hanoi Doesn’t Know About Jane McGee

Considers herself a ‘math nerd’

Weed whacking in a cemetery was a favorite student summer job

Formerly a competitive gymnast

Argo is one of her most-liked movies

Happy place is a coffee shop

Jane’s Favorite Foods (by city she’s lived in)

Toronto – Poutine

Rome – Pizza

Cairo – Koshari

Bangkok – Panang curry

Warsaw – Kielbasa

Mumbai – Daal Makhani

Vientiane – Laap

Hanoi into the future and continue to grow and broaden the School’s community and reputation.

“Jane brings a significant wealth of experience,” he says. “She knows what the School is about and is perfectly placed to continue our strategy and growth into 2020 and beyond.”



Madame Ly, UNIS Hanoi's first art teacher, lives in a sixth-floor apartment surrounded by beauty in art.

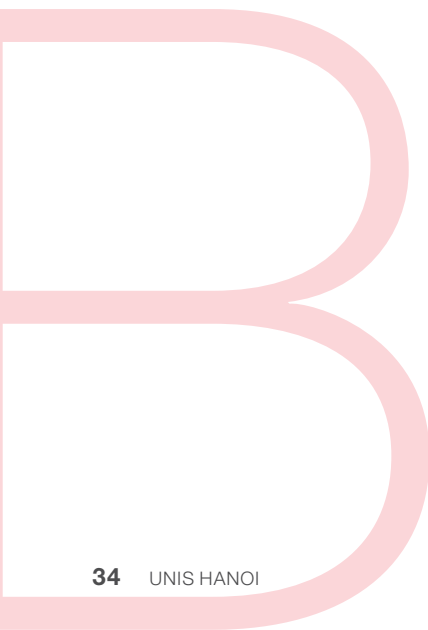
Impressionist cityscapes of a bygone Hanoi, with women in traditional Vietnamese áo dài bicycling under flowering trees, decorate the walls.

Lacquer paintings of women in colourful dresses (an artistic documentation of her country's cultural minorities) lean against each other at the edges of rooms.

A well-known artist, these paintings represent Ha My Ly's life work. Her art has been well received at national and international exhibitions, and several of her paintings are housed in the Vietnam Fine Arts Museum. She holds degrees from both the Hanoi Fine Arts College and the Hanoi Industrial Fine Arts College.

But equally treasured are the scrapbooks of photographs and cards from her time teaching art in the early days of UNIS Hanoi.

A TEACHER OF BEAUTY





Working at the School from 1990 until her retirement in 2002, Mme Ly was a well-loved member of the community whose influence reached far outside her classroom. The annual exhibition of student work that she organised was a community highlight, and she took as much pride in student art as in her own.

The opportunity to study under an internationally-acclaimed artist was a unique one for UNIS Hanoi students. Their notes in her scrapbooks speak of a teacher who was a friend and mentor to them.

“Art is my favorite subject in school. I think that Mme Ly is a very good art teacher,” student Alex Brody penciled under a drawing of a red flower and an orange sun.

“Dear Mme Ly,” departing Grade 4 student Natalie wrote in a colorful scrawl on a pink piece of paper, “You are the best art teacher I met.” On the back is a quote, “If there is no art, there’s no life.”

Madame Ly agrees. “Painting is my passion,” she admits. Even in her present retirement, “I cannot stop it.”

Her students were privileged to benefit directly from Mme Ly sharing her passion and expertise with them. Field trips to local craft sites like the Dong Ho woodcut village helped students engage with Vietnamese culture as well as art. And they could learn how to make a woodcut from a master, since that was one of Mme Ly’s mediums.

She remembers a trip to the Bat Trang ceramic village outside Hanoi where even the parent chaperones were so absorbed in molding clay that she had to drag them away when it was time to go. Students visited her house, she recounts, to learn her most special technique, lacquer painting.

Photos show her working with recycled materials with her students long before the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) enshrined the value of recycling and reusing. For her, that was simply a way of life. She studied art in Hanoi during war time, and fine art materials were scarce.

Mme Ly loved to teach students from different countries and cultures. “I enjoy

working with children,” she says. “I teach them something, and they teach me something, too.”

She remembers that her own painting benefited from her teaching, as she learned from students how to more easily show feelings. Children, Mme Ly says, “Don’t think so much, they just show their sentiment.”

Mme Ly always tried hard to make her art class fun. “I felt happy when the students enjoyed it,” she says.

“My time at UNIS Hanoi was a happy time.”





Community with No Bystanders - Alumni Special

In our 30th year, we present inspiring alumni stories to celebrate three decades of learning that is making a difference in the world. The eight alumni featured in the following section — including Dr Barber! — are connected by a passion for service and a desire to help others.

From a student first here in 1994 to a brand new graduate with the Class of 2018, these stories are tales of empathetic leaders who point the way for all of us to enjoy a more sustainable, cooperative global future.





VISION FOR VIETNAM

A former student of UNIS Hanoi is now back in the country he calls home with a new mission: helping Vietnam's most vulnerable.

Emmanuel Selvanayagam, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) holder from Tulane University in the United States, was carving out his career within the corporate sector. But a series of events led him to change track and follow his first passion of service to others.

Now, as the Director of Strategy and Public Engagement at World Vision Vietnam, Emmanuel says his 'defining years' at the School helped motivate him to quit the corporate world in favor of the humanitarian development sector.

At World Vision, he aims to improve the wellbeing and protection of as many as three million children across 15 provinces. It's a much different



focus from his years working at Toyota, Edward Jones Financial and a series of investment banks, he admits.

"In my late teen years, I knew I wanted to work in the development sector," Emmanuel says. "But then, doing my MBA, I switched. I thought there was more in the corporate world."

But when Emmanuel, an Indian national, lost his mother to cancer, he reevaluated his life and decided that the development sector was where he truly belonged. He came back to his former home base of Vietnam to use his expertise for the benefit of others.

At the School from 1994 to 2000, the Service Learning Programme at UNIS Hanoi had a lasting impact on Emmanuel. "UNIS Hanoi was the first international school I went to that valued service," he says. He also saw teachers and administration striving to constantly be of service to others, an example that stuck with him.

A memorable UNIS Hanoi moment is the image of Jim Ambrose, the Head of School at the time, standing in flood waters on the former campus. With dress pants rolled up and tie around his neck, he helped arriving students literally 'walk the plank' from the bus to the building's entrance to avoid getting wet.

"One thing I took away from my time at UNIS was the sense of unity," Emmanuel says. "We were a close knit community, which I cherished. I'm happy to be back in Hanoi, and I'm looking forward to supporting the School in any way I can."

Masatoki Teranishi is always ready to conquer a new challenge. Help a deaf Special Olympian get better at soccer? Learn his third language in an immersive environment? Become a doctor?

No problem, says Masatoki, UNIS Hanoi Class of 2013 graduate.

A native of Japan, Masatoki recently graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in Kinesiology, the study of body movement. Now he works as a medical scribe and volunteers with health-related organizations while applying for medical school.

Masatoki constantly seeks new things to learn. As a volunteer with the Special

Olympics, he started coaching a deaf athlete living with cerebral palsy. So what's the natural thing for an UNIS Hanoi-inspired lifelong learner to do?

Take American Sign Language (ASL) classes, of course. "It's my passion to create communities," Masatoki says. "I love to be inclusive."

Masatoki's motivation to serve others was enhanced in the Service Learning Programme at UNIS Hanoi. "I exceeded 300 hours of volunteering, because I enjoyed it so much," says Masatoki.

Meeting Dr Tadashi Hattori in Vietnam was an inspirational moment. Dr Hattori draws a salary



as an eye doctor in Japan then uses his earnings to perform eye surgeries on patients in need around Hanoi, for free. Masatoki has returned to Vietnam three times to assist with Dr Hattori's medical missions.

And it is this career goal that is presenting Masatoki with the biggest challenge he has faced so far: becoming a general surgeon equipped to save lives and improve health in West Africa.

It takes a combination of curiosity and courage to prepare for a life of medical service among some of the world's neediest communities, but Masatoki has always been adventurous. During university, he spent a year learning French in France, a skill to further his goal of working in West Africa. And a challenge he loved.

Masatoki has stayed connected to UNIS Hanoi friends, and to Head of School Dr Chip Barder as well. In the winters of 2017 and 2018, they traveled together from the Seattle area to a UNIS Hanoi reunion in Vancouver, Canada.

"What's most impressive about Masatoki," Dr Barder says, "is that he has truly embraced looking outside of himself to others as a way of life. Watching him get excited about service is contagious, and it confirms the UNIS Hanoi Mission to create empathetic leaders.

"UNIS Hanoi is so proud to help develop alumni like Masatoki as global citizens who are helping our world become a healthier, better-connected collective."

COURAGE, COMMUNITY AND CARE FOR OTHERS



TRANSLATING HAPPINESS



Back in Hanoi for a break from studies at prestigious Georgetown University in Washington, DC, UNIS Hanoi graduate Quinn Do was thrilled to give back to her native Vietnam this past March through service with Operation Walk Ireland (OWI).

“Helping people brings a sense of joy and fulfillment that I don’t get from anything else,” says Quinn.

The Service Learning Programme at UNIS Hanoi was instrumental in developing her service ethic. When she heard OWI needed a translator between the Irish medical professionals who came to Hanoi this spring and the Vietnamese patients they would serve, Quinn stepped up.

Born in Vietnam, Quinn was already fluent in Vietnamese. Studying at UNIS Hanoi from kindergarten to graduation with the Class of 2015 ensured she

had the English skills necessary for complicated medical translations.

“It was an extremely fulfilling experience,” Quinn says of her time with OWI. “I was able to witness miracles happen.” Operation Walk Ireland performs no-cost hip and knee replacements for patients who would otherwise not have access to such life-changing surgery. “It was magical to see their physical and emotional state transform,” Quynh notes.

Translating a workshop for Vietnamese nurses on post-operative care “was the most nerve wracking thing I’ve done,” Quinn admits. But her UNIS Hanoi experiences helped her shine—she was a founding member of a public speaking club at the School.

Lessons from UNIS Hanoi have been a big help at university as well. “The International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum at UNIS and my involvement in sports gave me a lot of

discipline in managing my own time and persevering through difficulties,” Quinn says.

Quinn also appreciates how UNIS Hanoi’s self-directed learning philosophy helped her succeed at Georgetown. “I remember doing a lot of experiments in UNIS science classes,” she says, “and coming up with my own art and music projects. I had a lot of autonomy in my learning process, and that was really good for me at university.”

Quinn chose to attend Georgetown because their mission statement mirrored UNIS values of developing the whole person and helping others. “The straightforward path to getting a degree was not something that agreed with my experience at UNIS,” Quinn says, “and I really wanted to continue exploring and developing myself.”

Quinn knows she is still a work in progress. “I have so many things to learn and to improve on,” she says. Continually striving for excellence through a life-long process of personal development, Quinn’s journey is a strong testament to the power of UNIS Hanoi values.





Mangrove Mission

Kayaking through a mangrove swamp in Thailand on a Grade 9 School trip, alum Pauline Lietar was captivated by her biology teacher's passion for the natural world and for local communities. That trip would help chart her future.

"You can hear about things in class and see photos, but seeing it with someone like Mr Hodgkinson, who was so excited about biology and passionate about the environment, it became real," she says.

Over a decade later, Pauline has come back to the Asian mangroves and cultures she fell in love with at fourteen. Inspired by UNIS Hanoi's emphasis on exploration and service, she is working in Sri Lanka to help coastal communities minimize the risks associated with tsunamis and other natural disasters, in which coastal mangroves play a key role.

Despite spending only two years at UNIS Hanoi, Pauline knows that her time at the School changed her life.

She appreciates that UNIS Hanoi made her into a self-led learner.

"The School always pushed students to have a project that went beyond classes, never just be content with going to class and having good grades," Pauline says.

Years after she left, the UNIS Hanoi emphasis on self reliance helped her push toward her dreams. Back in her native Belgium, Pauline earned degrees in social anthropology and humanitarian aid.

When multiple humanitarian organisations said she needed a biology degree to realise her dream of working in mangrove and coastal protection, she kept looking until she found a place for herself, right where she wanted to be.

On an April visit to the UNIS Hanoi campus, Pauline noted that the spirit of student-focused education

remains. "I hope current students realize how great this school is," Pauline says. "Other schools aren't as focused on student well being. UNIS is pretty exceptional."

Pauline has held on to more than just UNIS Hanoi values and education. She's held onto her School friends as well. She loves the enthusiasm other UNIS Hanoi alums have for the kind of adventurous, passionate life she is living. "I'm continuously inspired by what other alumni do," she says.

"UNIS best friends are my best friends still," Pauline concludes. "UNIS sticks with you."

ENVIRONMENT ENTREPRENEUR!

Alex Pio loves the beaches of Sierra Leone and their potential to help reinvent a country emerging from a string of crises. But he doesn't enjoy the trash that constantly floats up onto otherwise pristine stretches of sand.

Determined to do something about the rubbish problem, and the high youth unemployment in surrounding communities, a World Bank Youth Innovation Fund grant is helping this UNIS Hanoi alum from the Class of 2004 and a team of tourism promoters support beach cleanup.

"Sierra Leone has beautiful beaches," Alex says, "and it is everyone's responsibility to protect them." A tourism development consultant with the World Bank, he helps the Sierra Leone government promote sustainable tourism that elevates the standard of living for local families.

And, he helps clean up the beaches. Alex's grant is empowering communities as micro-entrepreneurs by helping them organise trash collection schemes that will provide jobs for Sierra Leone youth. It will also keep the trash from ending up on the beach.

Not content with simply minimising litter, the team is also training young people to turn that waste into crafts that can be sold within their country's fledgling tourist industry.

Alex appreciates how the development he is doing



can bring out the potential in people where it is needed most. "It's helping others help themselves," he says of projects in countries like Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Haiti.

Growing up in Italy, Chile, the Philippines and Vietnam motivated Alex to find a career where he could continue to explore. And being a student at UNIS Hanoi, he says, "helped me become comfortable in a global environment and understand different perspectives."

After graduating from UNIS Hanoi, he attended the Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne and worked in hotel management in the Caribbean. But he

wanted to make more of a difference and went back to school for a masters degree in Tourism Destination Management.

"UNIS put a big emphasis on improving people's lives," Alex says, "not only learning biology or math but thinking about how to use that to be a productive member of society." Now, based in Baltimore outside Washington, DC, he is promoting tourism that makes a difference.

Alex enjoys visiting new places. He likes that, when he travels for vacation or for work, there's almost always a UNIS Hanoi alum nearby. "UNIS created friendships for life," he says.



FOOD, FUEL & FRUITFUL FARMLAND

Agricultural innovation is Yanik Nyberg's future. It is the world's future, too. With growing food demand projected to outstrip supply, new farming methods must be found.

Class of 2013 UNIS Hanoi alumnus Yanik might just hold our future in his hands.

A graduate student at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Yanik leads a seawater farming project on Scotland's coast growing salt tolerant plants and making them viable in local markets. Classed as superfoods packed with vital nutrients, these plants also have potential uses in producing cosmetics, building materials and biofuels.

Yanik hopes his research will prove the potential of his innovative farming methods. "I see this as an environmentally friendly practice where plants can be produced organically on unused, low quality land," he says.

From a dual German and American family, Yanik's international education has positioned him to take his successes abroad. Involvement in Model United Nations and the visit of Ban Ki Moon, then Secretary-General to the UN, were highlights of his time at UNIS Hanoi.

"The focus that UNIS placed on the principles of the United Nations and of global development was amazing," Yanik says. "You could feel that in every class."

Yanik's interest in international relations and economics led him to an undergraduate degree in law at the University of Aberdeen. But his Vietnam-based learning about food security and climate change never left him. Memories of trips to the Red River in Hanoi and exposure to agricultural issues in the Mekong River delta lingered, helping to spark a career change.

Yanik is now finishing a masters degree in Environmental Engineering and Entrepreneurship at the University of Strathclyde, out of which his seawater farming project was born.

From the trial project in Scotland, he hopes to spend the offseason — winters in the UK — putting his seawater farming ideas to practical use in developing countries around Asia. In places like Sri Lanka, Yanik plans to restore farmland lost to encroaching saltwater. "I want to see the land made fruitful again and the local economy rejuvenated," he says.

UNIS Hanoi connections made Sri Lanka a natural place for Yanik to launch his humanitarian development initiative. From being a student at UNIS Hanoi, "I ended up with friends in virtually every country," he says. "UNIS contacts have opened a lot of doors for me."

And Yanik may, in turn, be opening the doors to a sustainable food future for all of us.



SHOOTING FOR THE STARS



As a child, UNIS Hanoi scholarship student Linh Nguyen helped her mother sell roasted corn on the sidewalks of Hanoi's Old Quarter to make a little money. She dreamed of education through high school and beyond, but had few resources to make that dream reality.

Now, with the help of the UNIS Hanoi Scholarship Programme, she is a High School graduate with the UNIS Hanoi Class of 2018 and is preparing to enter university overseas.

Linh's mother, whose parents died when she was young, came to Hanoi from the countryside when she was just a girl. Though her life has been one of manual labor, she emphasized education for Linh from an early age.

Linh remembers dreaming of going to school overseas from Grade 3 when a cousin went to study in Singapore. But Linh's father had died when she was four, and her mother's work as a cleaner and dishwasher did not bring a high standard of living for their family of two.

Linh earned money, when she could, to buy school supplies and help her mother. "Before I came to UNIS, it was hard for both of us," says Linh.

But then her Middle School homeroom teacher, Phuong Mai Le, encouraged Linh to apply for the UNIS Hanoi scholarship. When she received it, her dreams suddenly seemed more achievable. "When I entered UNIS a whole new world of developing

my skills opened," Linh says. "UNIS promotes the talent of each person.

"At UNIS, students can transform a raw idea into an influential project as our teachers are truly supportive whether during working hours or after school."

Linh's dramatically expanded educational opportunity through UNIS Hanoi is an extraordinary story of personal transformation through a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Linh was the first recipient of the Bitexco Founders Scholarship made possible by a UNIS Hanoi family's investment philanthropy.

Except it wasn't just once in a lifetime. One scholarship has led to another, and Linh is preparing to enter prestigious Vanderbilt University in the United States on a 'full ride' financial award that will cover her university tuition expenses and more. Vanderbilt has been Linh's dream university since Grade 10.

Linh plans to study communication and human development. She wants to take full advantage of her time learning in the United States then come back to Vietnam and work with a non-profit organisation assisting impoverished women and children.

UNIS Hanoi has helped Linh develop her ethic of giving to others, a desire already fueled by memories of how hard life was for her when she was little. At the School since Grade 9, she started a pet rescue service group and helped found Sanse, a student-led service organisation that supports a school in the mountains of Lao Cai.

Sanse has been trying to help children in Lao Cai stay in school past Grade 9, when many of them drop out to help on the farm or get married. During one service trip Linh remembers meeting



a girl who had little prospect for future education and thinking, "That could be me."

A scholarship student herself, she has turned her talents to raising funds for scholarships for others. It was no surprise that she was honoured with the Dr Frances J Rhodes Community Service Award at graduation this year.

And this was not the only award-winning recognition. A film student in the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme at UNIS Hanoi, Linh brought the story of disadvantaged children to life for her final film project. In a simple seven minute script, titled *Nhan*, Linh the screenwriter told a tale of a young boy who is rescued from the streets by a man who was once a street child himself.

Filmed in Vietnam with actors from Linh's former school, the short earned Best Director award for friend and fellow graduate Hannah Nguyen at the May 2018 Across Asia Youth Film Festival. It also received the Audience Choice award for the team, which included cinematographer Giang Nguyen.

Linh is grateful for all the people who have helped her to success. People like UNIS Hanoi alumnus Nam, the School's first scholarship student, this year studying at an exchange programme in Oxford. Linh has reached out to him multiple times for advice.

She remembers asking Nam, during her first six months of adjustment at UNIS Hanoi, what to do on days when the learning curve seemed too steep. His answer came back, stick with it. "So I stuck with it," Linh says.

Indeed, Linh's life is all about "breaking the barriers and pushing beyond



them," she says. You have to grab the opportunity, take the chance that comes to you at the time, Linh thinks, and she has done that to perfection.

"Linh has an amazing appetite for life paired with determination," says UNIS Hanoi Director of Advancement Emma Silva. "She has really seized each moment and made it into something. She has embraced everything about the UNIS Hanoi experience, and her story is incredibly inspiring."

Linh has already turned around to help another student, Linh Ngo, enter the UNIS Hanoi Scholarship Programme in Grade 8 this past year. She likes to spread the opportunity around.

"Shoot for the moon, and if you don't get the moon you'll still land on a star," is Linh's graduating quote in the UNIS Hanoi Yearbook. Now that a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has come twice for Linh, she feels like she has already explored the moon and is ready to blast off again to find a new star.



END OF AN ERA **OUR DOCTOR'S DECADE**

Dr Chip Barder, a respected educator and administrator with more than four decades of work in international schools, is leaving UNIS Hanoi in June to take a 'gap year' — no mentioning of the "R" word, please!

Honouring his ten years as Head of School at UNIS Hanoi, the School celebrates a strong legacy of faculty development, campus growth and educational excellence.



Under Dr Barder's steady leadership, the School has grown from 850 to nearly 1,200 students. Average length of stay for faculty has extended from three years to more than four. International Baccalaureate (IB) test scores have remained consistently above world averages.

Dr Barder has helped the School become comfortable in its current campus, open for only four years at his



arrival for the 2008-09 academic year. Since then, the campus expanded through addition of the Sports Centre, the Centre for the Arts, an all weather sports field, new covered recreational courts and a new cafeteria building.

During his tenure, Dr Barder has worked with 15 school division administrators. In nearly all cases, they left the School for promotions, a testament to Dr Barder's role in their career growth. He steered a professional development programme that has been key to attracting and keeping the very best teachers at UNIS Hanoi.

“Buildings are only buildings,” says Dr Barder, who started his career as a teacher and counsellor. “It’s what happens in the classrooms that counts.”

He started the UNIS Hanoi Scholarship Programme, which has sponsored 13 Vietnamese scholars currently at the school or graduated. More than \$600,000 has been fundraised in support of scholarships over the last four years, including to create the Dr Charles Barder Scholarship, supporting students for the decade ahead.

The Alumni Programme, which now connects 55% of the growing alumni community to the School, started under Dr Barder's leadership. He has

also continued UNIS Hanoi's vital connection to the United Nations and deepened the School's commitment to supporting education within Vietnam.

Dr Barder has worked closely with the School's Board of Directors and led best governance practices in the international school community worldwide. He shepherded the School through the creation of two strategic plans, including the current Strategy 2020 that will guide the transition to a new Head of School, Jane McGee, starting next academic year.

Dr Barder will be remembered best, however, for his engaging personality, personal wisdom and love for the community. Famed for keeping a guitar in his office, he played in classrooms, during speeches and at every UN Day celebration. He has been a fixture at community events and sports tournaments, always greeting students, chatting with parents and cheering on UNIS Hanoi teams.

“I am incredibly proud to have led this great school for a decade,” says Dr Barder. “I will miss the regular contact with students, faculty, parents and staff. Ms Canada and I love being part of such a vibrant community, and it will be hard to leave UNIS and Hanoi. We have come to love the people of Vietnam, and we know we can always count on them as friends forever.

“I wish each member of the School all the best as you continue to strive to be the best school that you can be. I hope everyone will stay focused on student learning as the driver of all decisions and actions. This is how a school continues to move from good to great.”

After completing his work at UNIS Hanoi in June, Dr Barder will continue the fine ‘gap year’ tradition of traveling and spending time with family and friends as he seeks his calling for the next part of his life.

Dr Barder, we will miss you!

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S TOP WORDS FOR DR BARDER

Awesome
Cool
Caring
Funny
Kind
Hard-working
Fantastic
Epic
Amazing
Lovely
Lovable
Responsible
Talented

AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

The American School of Kinshasa

Democratic Republic of the Congo | 1973-76

International School of Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia | 1978-84

Rantau Petronas International School

Malaysia | 1984-85

Caltex American School

Indonesia | 1987-92

Damascus Community School

Syria | 1992-95

Anglo-American School, Moscow

Russia | 1996-2002

American School of Warsaw

Poland | 2002-08

United Nations International School of Hanoi

Vietnam | 2008-18

In the next edition of UNiquely UNIS

In your next edition of UNiquely UNIS we will bring you another collection of outstanding stories from an outstanding school. Don't miss the next edition to be published Winter 2019 including...

SDG Specialty!

Blazing a path of innovative education, UNIS Hanoi will host the first-ever regional conference for the IBO Asia Pacific focusing on 'Using Sustainable Development Goals within IB Classrooms'.

Preparing Digital Citizens

We live in an exponential digital world. Find out how UNIS Hanoi prepares your children to embrace the adventure and manage their digital footprint from Discovery up.

United Nations in Vietnam

In a new strand for UNiquely UNIS we highlight some of the projects and activities of the UN in Vietnam connecting our community to their work.

Slam Poetry, Chocolate & Toastmasters!

What do they all have in common? Our UNIS Hanoi alumni are leaders in their fields and are as varied as they are inspiring!

Small Steps, Big Impact!

A spotlight on some of our students who have taken a personal passion one step further and are changing the world.

Spelling Out a Brighter Future

Our students and parents support a host of life-changing literacy projects. We follow your used books on a journey of impact in some of Vietnam's most remote areas.



UNiquely UNIS would like to thank the following for their contribution to this edition:

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For any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact the UNiquely UNIS Editor, Emma Silva: advancement@unishanoi.org

Or if you have a story you would like to share or read more about: stories@unishanoi.org

CORRECTION:

In our Winter 2018 edition of UNiquely UNIS in the article titled "Uncovering Scholarship Success" (p.32-33) we apologise for incorrectly describing our alumni scholar Luu Viet Thang as Vice Dean and professor at the University of Architecture. He is Vice Dean of Faculty of Interior and Exterior Design, University of Industrial Fine Art of Hanoi.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY ORGANISATION (SCO)

SCO - IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE

PTA - PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION Родительский Комитет
SRPS SDRUŽENÍ RODIČŮ A PRÁTEL ŠKOLY

FORÆLDREBESTYRELSE
ELTERNVERTRETUNG
家长教师联系协会
FAU - FORELDRE RÅDETS ARBEJDS UTVALG

विद्यालय समुदाय संगठन
සමුදාය සංගමය
SAMAHAAN NG MGA MAGULANG AT MGA GURU
ASOCIACION DE PADRES DE ALUMNOS
APE - ASSOCIATION DES PARENTS D'ELEVES
HỘI PHỤ HUYNH HỌC SINH

FÖRÄLDRAFÖRENINGEN
HÖR PÅ FÖRENINGEN
HÖR PÅ FÖRENINGEN

SCO COMMITTEES



SCHOOL VALUES

Learning
Community
Responsibility



SCO MISSION

To enhance and foster supportive partnerships throughout the school community in support of the UNIS Hanoi Mission