



A TIME LIKE NO OTHER



UWC DILIJAN COLLEGE IS THE 14TH MEMBER OF THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGES MOVEMENT WITH A MISSION TO MAKE EDUCATION A FORCE TO UNITE PEOPLE, NATIONS AND CULTURES FOR PEACE AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE. ONE OF EIGHTEEN UWC COLLEGES AROUND THE WORLD, UWC DILIJAN IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL BOARDING SCHOOL IN ARMENIA FOR STUDENTS AGED 16 TO 19. OFFERING THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME, UWC DILIJAN HAS A STUDENT BODY OF 225 FROM 80 COUNTRIES AND AN INTERNATIONAL FACULTY OF 40 FROM 15 COUNTRIES.



CLASS OF 2021

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WELCOME



“

Dear members of the UWC Dilijan community,

The 2020/21 academic year was, by all accounts, like no other. Without a doubt, we will remember the difficulties brought about by the pandemic and the sacrifices each of us had to make in the face of it. The war in Nagorno-Karabakh had an impact affecting our Armenian colleagues and friends. Despite this, reflecting on the year, we have a lot to celebrate, perhaps more than we would have under normal circumstances.

UWC Dilijan demonstrated resilience thanks to its vibrant community of students, staff, parents, supporters, alumni and friends. Given that we had in-person classes practically throughout the year, our spirit is stronger than ever and we are a closer-knit family.

Even though I did not have the honour of being a member of the UWC Dilijan team when it was founded in 2014, I was lucky to attend the opening ceremony and remember well how impressed I was with the UWCD promise.

As the UWCD head, it fell to me to keep that promise over this turbulent period with the help of the whole community, and, in the first instance, of our amazing students. Results of IB exams and university admissions, which you can see below, speak for themselves – we reached new heights academically and are very proud of our students and our staff whose joint achievements they are.

Representatives of the first UWCD Class – 2016 – graduated from universities and moved to new adventures. They now have the benefit of hindsight to

understand and, I hope, appreciate even more what the UWCD education means for them. To strengthen links with our graduates, the Alumni Council was established last year. Its members are a pillar of support for both the students and the administration.

The Parent Council was another positive development of the pandemic year. I am grateful that our families got engaged with the school on a more formal basis offering generously their expertise and talent.

And while in the spring of 2020 the UWCD Board was discussing options related to the school's continued existence, the perseverance of the staff and students and the parents' trust proved that the school would survive. And with the Board's loyal support at all levels, UWC Dilijan is not only surviving but thriving. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, UWC Dilijan was in a healthy financial situation and continued to ensure the socio-economic and geographic diversity of the student body. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Co-Founders Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend, whose personal support is paramount to UWC Dilijan's success.

As we summarise the year, I would like to quote James Joyce, who said in A "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man": "Welcome, O life! I go to encounter for the millionth time the reality of experience and to forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race." I hope that all of us, of whatever origin, will continue discovering ourselves as we journey through our lives, pandemic or not, and make the best of it.

”

Gabriel Ernesto Abad Fernández

Head of College



A NOTE FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS

“

The seventh academic year at UWC Dilijan College has been a real milestone not because we celebrated an important anniversary or event, but because of the situation under which the school has operated. We would like to congratulate students, staff, parents and friends on the mere fact that UWC Dilijan managed to keep a dream alive for our young people who chose our school.

You demonstrated to the whole world what a truly remarkable place UWC Dilijan is. The pandemic and the war over Nagorno-Karabakh were the challenges that Gabriel Ernesto Abad Fernández and the college met with dignity and unrivalled strength.

During these challenging times in a world that has become more fractured due to the confluence of unprecedented circumstances, the need for bringing young people together to build international understanding and a more harmonious society is more urgent than ever. We would like to invoke the words of our special friend and a supporter of UWC Dilijan, whom we lost in April – Vartan Gregorian, a scholar, educator, leader, humanitarian and simply a great Armenian who crossed cultures easily because of his open and endlessly curious mind. He said, “...peace will be rooted in understanding how the differences between us – between states, peoples, and nations – cause conflict, and in finding ways of managing those differences instead of letting them explode into hostilities.” In light

of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia and around the world, we consider it our duty to turn these words into action. And we rely on the amazing teaching and support staff to inspire our students to take action to make the world a better place working together with the parents who entrusted their children to UWC Dilijan.

In their turn, volunteers on the UWC Dilijan College Boards of Governors and Trustees took action by guaranteeing the school's financial viability and further development, and we are very grateful for their dedication.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to Noubar & Anna Afeyan, the Founding Patrons of UWC Dilijan, and also to our friends and partners, the 5th Anniversary Benefactors, Ruben Arutyunyan & Anahit Antonyan, Evgeny Demin & Elena Belous, Leonid Mikhelson, Nikita Mishin, Dan & Christin Olofsson, Karen & Anna Sarkisov and Sergey Sarkisov & Rousudan Makhshvili, who have provided continued support. We would also like to sincerely thank each and every donor who contributed to UWC Dilijan. We would also like to sincerely thank each and every donor who contributed to UWC Dilijan.

We hope that, like ourselves, you find satisfaction in empowering the lives of the new generation of young people who will lead the world into the future.

”

Veronika Zonabend and Ruben Vardanyan

WHO WE ARE

225
students and
their families



40
teachers



502
alumni



80
countries



650
supporters



70
staff



21
board and
board committee
members



10
international,
regional and
local partners



EACH ONE OF US SEPARATELY AND ALL OF US TOGETHER ARE GUIDED BY THE UWC CORE VALUES: INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING, CELEBRATION OF DIFFERENCE, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INTEGRITY, MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECT, COMPASSION AND SERVICE, RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, A SENSE OF IDEALISM, PERSONAL CHALLENGE, ACTION AND PERSONAL EXAMPLE.



STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY LINKS

OVER THE 2020/21 ACADEMIC YEAR TWO STAKEHOLDER ENTITIES - THE ALUMNI COUNCIL AND THE PARENT COUNCIL - WERE ESTABLISHED. THEY CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO MAKING UWC DILIJAN A STRONG COMMUNITY OF LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE. IT WAS ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL TO SEE THIS ENERGY GIVEN THE DIFFICULT YEAR.

PARENT COUNCIL

During the pandemic we all learnt that distance is not always a problem and that technology can facilitate productive interaction, and in February 2020 our parents established the UWCD Parent Council. The parents are enthusiastic about getting involved and helping UWCD with onboarding new families when they join the UWCD family, assisting with the UWC and UWCD promotion and fundraising, participating in career advice and university sessions, hosting students and providing internship opportunities for our students and alumni. The Parent Council is led by the Executive Committee including Majella Skansebakken as Chair, Alexandros Kassimatis as Deputy Chair and Naomi Plaat as Secretary.



**MAJELLA
SKANSEBAKKEN**

Chair



**ALEXANDROS
KASSIMATIS**

Deputy Chair



**NAOMI
PLAAT**

Secretary

ALUMNI COUNCIL

Our alumni are a closely-knit network and continue their interaction among themselves and with the college. They are represented by the Alumni Council with graduates from each year. They are:



**LUCIA GONZALEZ
MANTECON**

Spain, UWCD'16



**MANANA
HAKOBYAN**

Armenia, UWCD'16



**KATYA
GURYEVA**

Russia, UWCD'17



**FLORA
HARUTYUNYAN**

Armenia, UWCD'18



**PAULA
LEGUÍSAMO**

Uruguay, UWCD'18



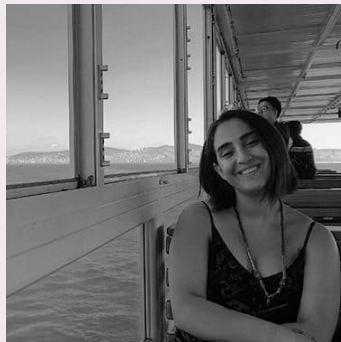
**DIANA
FAZLIEVA**

Russia, UWCD'19



**LUAY
IDRISS**

Lebanon, UWCD'19



**ROZA
KAVAK**

Turkey, UWCD'20



**DAVID
SAGRADIAN**

Netherlands, UWCD'20

ACHIEVING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER



150

days of in-person classes



318

university offers



32

online events and town halls



178

CAS experiences



50+

outdoor trips



45

alumni volunteers

IB RESULTS

96% UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT FOR GRADUATING CLASSES



99.15%

OF STUDENTS PASSED THE IB EXAM

79.1%

WORLDWIDE AVERAGE PASS RATE 2020

23.08%

PERCENTAGE RECEIVING 40+ POINTS

7.5%

WORLDWIDE AVERAGE

47%

OF STUDENTS RECEIVED BILINGUAL DIPLOMAS

24.8%

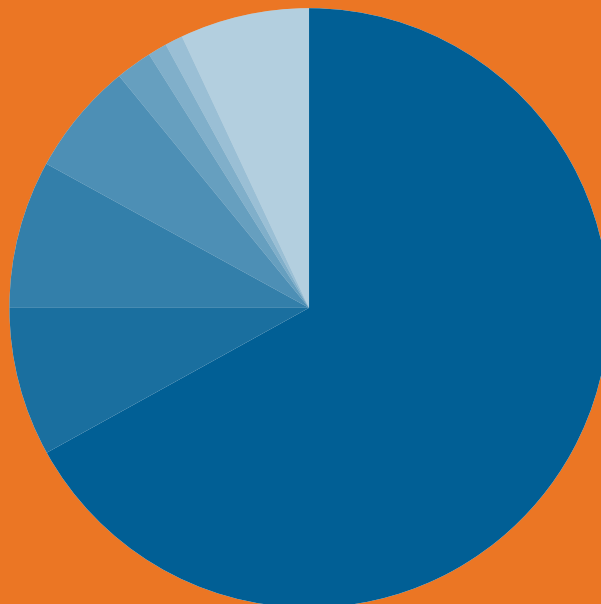
WORLDWIDE AVERAGE

CLASS OF 2021 UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS EXAMPLES

- Harvard University
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Brown University
- Cornell University
- University of Chicago
- Duke University in the US
- McGill University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Toronto in Canada
- Imperial College London
- University College London,
- University of Edinburgh
- University of St. Andrews in the UK
- Leiden University
- Maastricht University in the Netherlands
- SciencesPo in France
- Yale-NUS in Singapore

LOCATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITIES THAT ACCEPTED UWC DILIJAN STUDENTS

- 67% ■ USA
- 8% ■ UK
- 8% ■ Canada
- 6% ■ Netherlands
- 2% ■ Spain
- 1% ■ Belgium
- 1% ■ Germany
- 7% ■ Other



LEARNING AND PERSEVERING



Dima Salam Sabbagh

UWCD'21, Lebanon

Dima, who is the beneficiary of the Aurora Gratitude scholarship, believes that her biggest achievement was her adapting to using remote learning tools that allowed her to work with a local organisation in Lebanon to help with social media campaigns and teaching English. While studying at UWCD was not easy for Dima given the rigour of IB, she displayed amazing effort, learnt a lot about herself interacting with her peers and teachers and succeeded in getting the IB Diploma. One of her favourite CAS experiences were activities for Under the Sun project, which aims to contribute to the fund for building houses in refugee camps in the Western Sahara.



Ayman Asif

UWCD'22, Bangladesh

Ayman joined UWC Dilijan in September and won the trust of the community with his responsible and thoughtful attitudes. It was no coincidence that he was elected as a core member of the Student Council. This was an opportunity for him to contribute his efforts to making a positive impact on the community and life at UWCD. As busy in class as he is, Ayman equally focuses on his social tasks and CAS activities, volunteering for the Red Cross along with his duties as a member of the Student Council, his student job in the library, plays sports and chess. Ayman immediately mobilised to plan and organise logistics of the student-driven project "Cooking for Artsakh" and for the Red Cross effort to raise funds for relief for families displaced in the result of the war in Artsakh, inspiring other participants by his example.



Zac Merida

UWCD'21, Philippines

Zac holds the distinction of being the first Filipino ever to attend UWC Dilijan. He was admitted to the college as one of a hundred students selected worldwide for the Davis-UWC Dare to Dream Scholarship. In his first year in UWC Dilijan, he was elected as co-chair of the college's Student Council. Zac has been very active as a student and appreciated all the opportunities he was given, participating in numerous projects outside the classroom - from the school's town halls and webinars to leading the "My Aurora Hero" competition and speaking at the EdHeroes forum in March.

“

UWC Dilijan's community cuts across every possible demographic, creating a microcosm of the world within the eight hectares of our campus. Contrary to the narrative of polarisation which has taken the world by storm, I have spent these formative years of mine immersing myself in a narrative of humanisation. UWC has shown me the power of humanitarian ideals to triumph over prejudice in the creation of a more harmonious world awaiting us.

”



Jade Altschul Matushenko

UWCD'21, USA & Colombia

Jade chose UWC Dilijan with an open mind and was eager to explore a new country. While, like everybody else, she experienced ups and downs due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, Jade took it in her stride. She was a very supportive member of her team and was a peer listener. She was active in the Red Cross fundraising team - raising funds for Artsakh people. She was a member of the Community Choir and for two years she was a teacher assistant in our primary years centre. Jade was involved in a discussion club "Let's talk" leading the Women's Week campaign. As master of the Class of 2021 graduation ceremony, Jade had a chance to tell her own story of resilience and also that of her class.

EXPERIENCING THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT AS A STUDENT



Mica Michel

Belgium, UWCD'22

First published in UWC
Annual Review 2020

Mica (UWC Dilijan, 2020-2022) is a first year student from Belgium. Having overcome the difficulties of starting her UWC journey in the midst of a global pandemic, Mica and the rest of the UWC Dilijan community were faced with the next global challenge: the outbreak of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in September 2020. Below she describes her experiences of watching the conflict unfold from the UWC Dilijan campus in Armenia with her co-years from all around the world.

Barev dzez! My name is Mica. This summer I left my little Kingdom of Belgium to come here, to Armenia. I come from a small European country where war is only experienced through history books or in the news through blurred pictures and subtitled tears. I came to UWC with a view to learn how to build peace but I didn't really expect to learn about it while entering a conflict zone.

On 27 September 2020, Armenia and Azerbaijan went to war. I don't really know when I first realised what this meant. Probably long after I received the multiple calls from my relatives who were panicking watching the news. Long after the school showed us the procedures to follow in case the air raid alarm went off. And long after my social networks filled up with #artsakhstrong or #armenia. No,

the first time I understood what war was, was when I saw friends from affected countries running out of the classroom as soon as they got a phone call or when I saw some students crying while reading the news. It was the constant tension, fear and uncertainty all over the campus that really took me by surprise. At first we thought it would only last for a few days as it has in the past. But from ceasefire to ceasefire the conflict lasted one month and 14 days.

On campus we adapted, we knew that our Outdoor Education Instructor had gone to the front, as well as many relatives of students and staff. As the days went by, I saw a bubble of support growing. Everyone was trying to do what they could to bring every bit of comfort to those who needed it most. It ranged from cooking or

donating clothes for the Artsakh refugees to the little paper words of encouragement left here and there for affected staff. There were also memorable moments, an Armenian song sung in chorus by all the Armenians in honour of the soldiers who fought or a Turkish pupil in a geopolitics class defending the Armenians of Artsakh. It was an extraordinary experience for many of us. But besides that we learned a lot. Indeed, what could be more relevant than learning how to build peace in the midst of a conflict? Is there a better way to understand the necessity of peace than by seeing the ravages of war with our own eyes? It was an opportunity to confront our ideals with a much harder and more complex reality. I understood (not endorsed) how two peoples can hate each other to the point of no longer questioning their responsibility in the conflict. I understood that the wars depicted on television and on several social networks were often simplified to the point of showing us only one side of the conflict. And I also understood a form of patriotism I've never seen in Europe.

In conclusion, this experience of conflict and war made me grow along my UWC journey. "UWC makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace." My experiences of the last few months have changed my view on this sentence. Peace now seems to me even more complicated to build but also much more necessary. There is no one way and no miracle recipe to build a healthy, fair and lasting peace, otherwise we would have achieved it long ago. Peace, such as the one I seek through the UWC movement, is not the absence of conflict. It is a daily practice to treat each other with respect in order to ensure stability in social cohesion and to meet the vital needs and protection of everyone. Experiencing this unity between Turks, Russians and Armenians living on the same campus while their countries are torn apart makes me believe that through education and communication we will be able to come closer to what we call peace.



TEACHING, CARING AND INSPIRING



“

UWCD is a unique place, where I can use my knowledge from different areas and my hobbies during teaching and CAS programmes. It's a great opportunity to live, work and share ideas with people from different countries, different cultures and habits.

”

Azniv Hovhannisyan

Teacher of ESS (Environmental Systems and Societies),
Residential House Parent, at UWCD since 2017



“

I am passionate about education and try to find interesting ways of making learning enjoyable, more connected to the real world and relevant. I try to make my classroom as experiential as possible, connecting the discipline to the worlds we live in. We also engage in thoughtful conversation and practice intellectual generosity.

”

Sushil Sivaram

Teacher of English, at UWCD since 2020



“

I love getting to know each student here at UWC Dilijan. I particularly enjoy learning about all the wonderful things they've accomplished both before and at UWC. Even more, I count myself lucky to be able to play a small role in helping them on their path to achieve even greater things hereafter.

”

Harvey Miller

University and Career Counsellor, at UWCD since 2018



“

I enjoy working with students to help them to implement their projects. Sometimes their ideas become bigger than just experience and develop as long-term business projects.

”

Armine Grigoryan

CAS Coordinator, Residential House Parent, at UWCD since 2014

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



UWC DAY 2020 "UNITED WE CAN"

UWC Day 2020 on 21 September on the theme "United We Can" was celebrated together with the National Committees of Russia, Armenia, Uzbekistan and Georgia. There was a webinar marathon with guests, students and alumni of UWC Dilijan who highlighted stories of making a difference.



ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS DAY AT UWCD

In response to climate change and pollution that plague our world, the UWCD Sustainability Committee collaborated with several CAS groups to organise an Environmental Focus Day. CASes like Let's Talk, held a facilitated discussion in Jubilee's Middle Ground style on personal and the school's sustainable practices. We also had an art exhibition, displaying various art pieces inspired by the environment, as well as presentations and quizzes on sustainability.



MY AURORA HERO, INTERNATIONAL VIDEO ESSAY COMPETITION

In October we held the international video essay competition MY AURORA HERO jointly with the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative as part of the 2020 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. We asked young people around the world to tell stories of their own heroes in a one-minute video essay MY AURORA HERO. With over 130 registrations, one prize - to Ekaterina Larionova, Russia - was awarded by popular vote. The jury awarded two prizes - to Natalia San Miguel, Peru, and Tetiana Tkachenko, Ukraine. The \$1,000 prizes went to the charities nominated by the winners with a \$200 reward for the winners themselves.



BLACK FOCUS WEEK AT UWCD

February marks a month of celebrating Black Culture and History. Our students organised a Black Focus Week where they discussed with their peers topics such as colonialism, daily struggles and slavery. "Black Focus Week reminded me of why I came to UWC in the first place. It was informative, it was eye-opening and honestly very much needed in our community and taught me more than most classrooms," said Valeria Guerra-Garcia (Peru, UWCD'21).



DILIMUN

In May, DiliMUN, the first MUN (Model United Nations) conference, was organised by our students. Amid a global pandemic it was an online event which attracted an international audience of 75. This year's theme was "Rise up and Walk" inspired by the quote: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime". Topics such as the restoration of the economy under COVID-19, France colonial power over African states and supply of clean energy to small island states gave participants the chance to use their critical thinking skills and come up with solutions that encourage international cooperation.



SKIING AT TSAKHKADZOR

The winter season in Armenia is surely a unique one. When the days get shorter and the temperature drops, our students and staff rush to Armenia's biggest ski resort, Tsakhkadzor. For some, learning how to ski and snowboard was a life-changing discovery! "Learning alpine skiing fosters a meaningful sense of community. We strive to help each other with overcoming the toughest challenges. This is my first time I've been to Tsakhkadzor ski resort and all I wish to say it was fun!" says Timur Siraev (Russia, UWCD'21).



JUST DILIJAN IT!

This summer Just Dilijan It, the summer programme at UWC Dilijan, had a UWC short course as part of the offering for the first time. It brought together young people from diverse backgrounds to engage in collaborative learning, community building and problem solving. The participants had a chance to have a mini UWC experience. The learning was aligned with the UWC mission within an inclusive community, which works together towards peace, environmental sustainability and social justice.



THE ALUMNI IN ACTION AWARDS

Jeppe Strands, UWCD'18, Denmark, whose UWCD scholarship was funded by Ruben Arutyunyan and Anahit Antonyan, became the 2021 Alumni in Action Awardee for establishing a social and rural development Armenian NGO with educational projects for children in the Tsaghkunk and Artanish villages. The Alumni in Action Award is a recognition by UWC Dilijan of the important contributions that alumni are making in their own communities, the UWC movement and the life of UWCD. The Alumni in Action Award was inspired by Sandro Chumashvili, UWCD'20, who rallied the Georgian Government in the summer of 2020 to help Armenia at the time when the pandemic crisis was at its most serious.

Jeppe and Sandro pictured receiving special pins as the Alumni in Action Awardees during the Class of 2021 graduation ceremony



A TREE-PLANTING TRADITION

Every year our graduating students plant trees representing the country they are from. This tradition started in 2016, with 49 pioneer countries. Year by year new trees have been added to our garden representing more than 90 countries. This year we added Kuwait, Burkina Faso, Bolivia, Ireland, Macedonia, Mauritius, Oman, Philippines, Sweden, Tajikistan, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia. Excited to see our garden grow!

UWC DILIJAN IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

DRIVING SUPPORT FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN

Despite the emotional atmosphere during the war over Nagorno-Karabakh, our community focussed on supporting IDPs (internally displaced persons) arriving in Dilijan. They were mothers and children from Nagorno-Karabakh. Students picked apples for them in our orchard, collected necessities and raised money in various ways such as bake-offs. They started the initiative "Cooking for Artsakh" providing delicious meals for the IDPs over weekends.



1000 LETTERS FOR ARTSAKH

(NAGORNO-KARABAKH)

After the peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan was signed, our students have invited all members of the UWCD community to write letters calling upon embassies, delegations and non-governmental organisations to advocate for the preservation of Artsakh's cultural heritage. The aim of the initiative is to prevent more destruction of historical monuments by raising awareness and calling for action.



CHARITY EXHIBITION IN DILIJAN

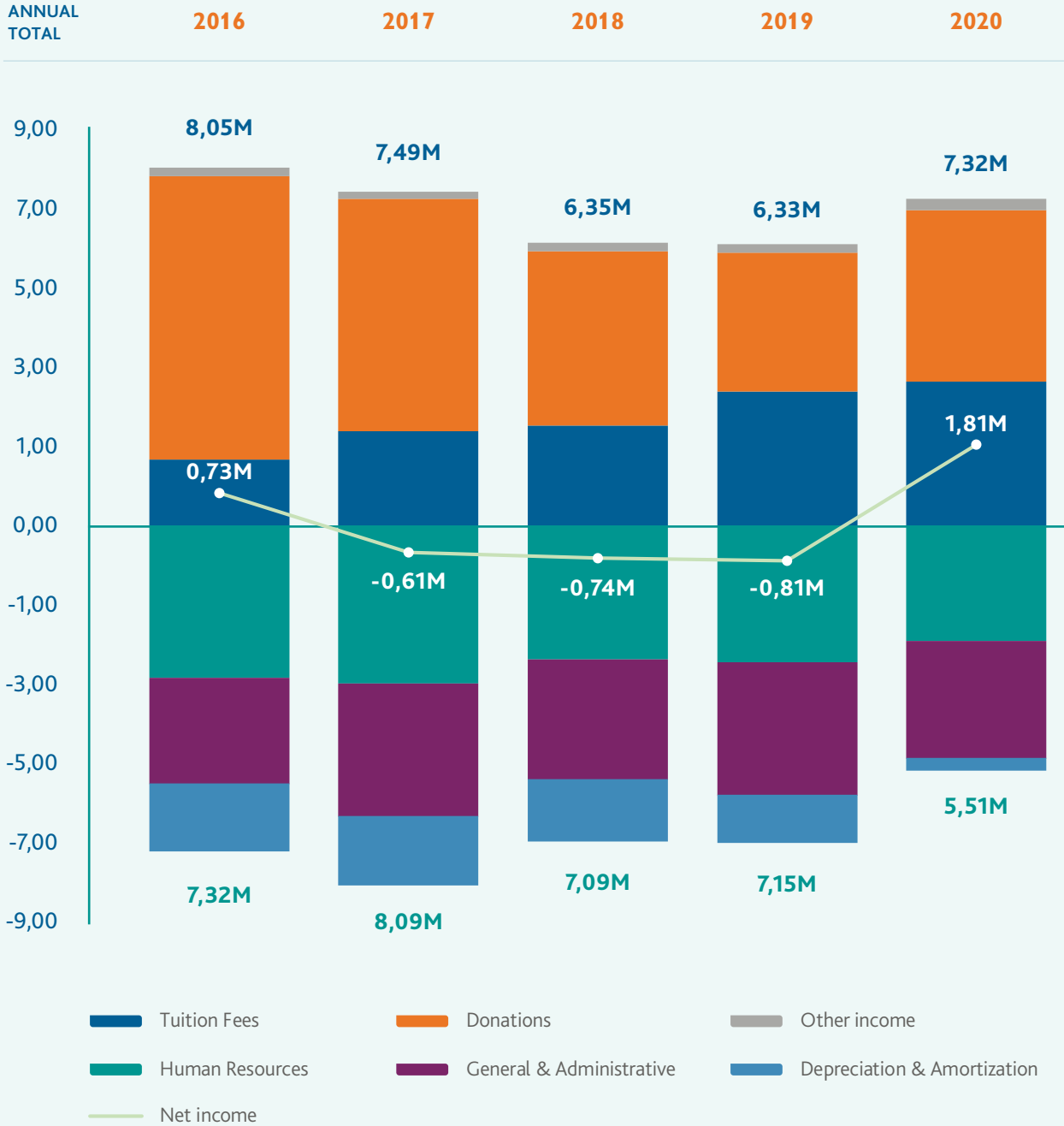
Dilijan's local Art Gallery organised an exhibition of artworks to support families affected by the war, and our Arts Department donated some works, among which were two clay vessels by Yaro Zabavskiy, UWCD Teacher of Visual Arts, and two paintings by our alumni - Nansi Dingle (UWCD'19, Wales) and Elvin Espinosa (UWCD'16, Panama).

FINANCIAL REPORT

UWCD 5-YEAR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES TREND

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TUITION FEES	1,49	2,11	2,26	3,02	3,25
DONATIONS	6,37	5,24	3,91	3,11	3,85
OTHER INCOME	0,19	0,14	0,17	0,20	0,23
TOTAL REVENUES	8,05M	7,49M	6,35M	6,33M	7,32M
HUMAN RESOURCES	-3,42	-3,55	-3,00	-3,06	-2,58
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	-2,38	-2,97	-2,71	-2,99	-2,64
DEPRECIATION & AMORTIZATION	-1,52	-1,57	-1,38	-1,09	-0,29
TOTAL EXPENSES	-7,32M	-8,09M	-7,09M	-7,15M	-5,51M
NET INCOME	0,73M	-0,61M	-0,74M	-0,81M	1,81M

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES



In addition to their average annual financial contribution of US\$1.7 million, UWC Dilijan Founders Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend contribute approximately US\$3.5 million in in-kind support to cover the campus maintenance and infrastructure costs, as well as expenses associated with the UWC movement.

ENABLING WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

MANY STUDENTS ARE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AT UWC DILIJAN THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF PRIVATE DONORS, CORPORATE ENTITIES AND ORGANISATIONS. BELOW ARE SEVERAL STORIES OF THEIR BENEVOLENCE.

Lord Ara Darzi

In 2019, Lord Ara Darzi established a scholarship in honour of his late mother Dickie Darzi while on a visit to UWCD. Support for Armenia and its people was a dear cause to his mother, which was why he decided to dedicate the scholarship at UWC Dilijan to her.

The first recipient of the Dickie Darzi Scholarship is Martin Mkrtchyan from Gyumri, Armenia.

Lord Ara Darzi of Denham is a prominent surgeon, recognised internationally for his outstanding contribution to minimally invasive surgery research and development, a politician and global health innovator. Professor Darzi is Co-Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London where he holds the Paul Hamlyn Chair of Surgery and is also Consultant Surgeon at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. He is a former President of the British Science



Association, Chair of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee and serves on the boards of multiple non-profit organisations focusing on medical research and engineering, science, education and community development.

A prominent educator himself, Lord Darzi believes in the power of education and advises his first scholar at UWCD not to be afraid to dream big.

Dan & Christin Olofsson

Mbali and Banele, who are from South Africa, joined our community in 2020. They are supported by Star for Life, a charitable organisation founded in 2005 by Dan and Christin Olofsson, who are from Sweden (pictured bottom right in the image below). With the mission to inspire young people to believe in their dreams for the future and to support them to live an AIDS-free life, Star for Life runs a preventive programme against HIV/AIDS, promoting a healthy way of life in South Africa, Namibia and Sweden. 450,000 young people have participated in it so far. Dan and Christin Olofsson generously give scholarships to the young people from the Star for Life programme to study at UWC Dilijan. Dan Olofsson is the owner of Danir, Founder and Chairman of Sigma, a group of companies that provide consulting services for IT, energy, industry and infrastructure projects, employing about 9000 people.



Mbali and Banele met with Dan and Christin Olofsson (pictured in the bottom right image) and the representatives of Star for Life to discuss their progress at UWC Dilijan together with Gabriel Ernesto Abad Fernández, Head of College (pictured in middle row on the left).



**Nikita
Mishin**

Nikita Mishin and his Dar Foundation have supported Russian students in UWC Dilijan since its opening in 2014.

Nikita Mishin, a Russia-based entrepreneur and philanthropist, is the founder and co-owner of GlobalTrans, a group of companies operating in the transportation industry. In 2005 he established and is a governor of the Dar Foundation, a charity, which aims to support development of education and enable talented children from underprivileged backgrounds to avail of modern educational programmes. The Dar Foundation is focused on the belief that education for young children must be made meaningful as it forms an individual for the rest of their life as adults.

Dar Foundation has established Novaya Shkola (the New School) a private school, which prioritises a student centric approach to teaching and learning. And while academic results are important, children enjoy their childhood and learn to make conscious decisions and independent choices.

There are other interactions between the Dar Foundation and UWCD. In 2020 the arts faculties of UWC Dilijan and Novaya Shkola, held a joint online event to share best practices in teaching arts to schoolchildren.



**Evgeny Demin
& Elena Belous**

Evgeny Demin and his wife Elena Belous, entrepreneurs, innovators and philanthropists, have supported Russian students in UWC Dilijan from the very beginning and they also provided scholarships for Russian students to attend other schools of the UWC movement.

They truly believe that everybody has an inner power to change the world for the

better. Nothing is impossible, and even the boldest dreams may come true, making one's and others' life meaningful, Evgeny Demin noted on one occasion.

Evgeny and Elena support educational, environmental and social projects aimed at sustainable development for a better future for everyone.



**Leonid
Mikhelson**

Education of young people is an important cause for Leonid Mikhelson who established a scholarship in 2019 for Russian students to attend UWC Dilijan. Four students have already become recipients of his scholarship.

A leading Russian entrepreneur, Leonid Mikhelson keenly believes in the role and importance of education. His philanthropic efforts are aimed at innovation in visual and performing arts, development of education and research, including art education and social development.

Leonid Mikhelson has founded V-A-C Foundation for Modern Arts which aims at promoting technology and innovation in modern arts in Russia, and the biggest European Modern Arts Museum - GES-2 - is planned to open in Moscow in 2022 as he believes in the importance of preserving creations of our days for the future generations.



**Alice
Petrossian**

A UWC Dilijan Board of Governors member, Alice Petrossian understands the value of education from her personal experience as an individual whose family immigrated to the US when she had to start her education anew at the age of nine. Choosing education as a career, Alice became a leader and advocate for all students in California while consulting on

education policy at the State and National levels. She also served as an instruction leader in both Glendale and Pasadena Unified School Districts. Passionate about equity in education, Alice gives back to her country of origin by providing financial support and volunteering for many organisations.

“

UWCD is an amazing vision that became a reality and changed the lives of students who have the privilege of learning , growing , innovating in a modern campus set in nature's lap. I am honored to be a part of the UWCD family and look forward to continued success for not only our students but our dedicated staff , and the Dilijan community.

”

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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE
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IN MEMORIAM VARTAN GREGORIAN (1934-2021)



“

Peace will be rooted in understanding how the differences between us – between states, peoples, and nations – cause conflict, and in finding ways of managing those differences instead of letting them explode into hostilities.

”

Vartan Gregorian
The Road to Home

UWC Dilijan is an independent not-for-profit international boarding school belonging to a charitable trust registered in Armenia solely for educational purposes and overseen by an all-volunteer board.

For further information please visit
www.uwcdilijan.org