

# 2022/2023 Staff Introduction

We are very pleased to announce our management and teaching lineup for the 2022/2023 academic year.

## Management and pedagogical leadership



### **Head of School - Dr. Lindsay Stuart**

#### [Video introduction for learners](#)

Lindsay is an experienced school administrator with over 15 years experience working in education in Thailand. Lindsay hails from New Zealand, where he graduated from the University of Canterbury with Bachelor degrees in Arts and Science before completing a PhD in Information Systems. He also holds a Masters degree from Mahidol University in Thailand and a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Administration from Massey University in New Zealand. Lindsay has an excellent understanding of educational administration, learning and technology and uses that knowledge to guide and shape exciting learning programmes for the students of UDIS.



### **Principal - Emmi Hines**

#### [Video introduction for learners](#)

Emmi holds a Master's Degree in Administration of Education. She has over 20 years in education and 8 of those in the IB settings. Emmi has a passion for approaching students with creativity, flexibility, openness, and compassion. She supports the ongoing commitment to UDIS teachers to be critical, reflective practitioners who value lifelong learning and this is reflective in her management style. Emmi is continuing her educational journey with UDIS for another year.

In her personal time, she enjoys traveling around the world to meet new people, loves reading all types of books and kicking back at the beach for some relaxation.



**Assistant Principal in charge of the Middle Years  
- Mark Abbadessa**

**[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Mark is a licensed teacher from America and began his teaching career in 2009. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, Elementary Education & Special Education from William Paterson University. Mark received his Masters of Science Degree in Literacy from the University of New England. He has also been awarded a Professional Certificate in Leadership and Management in Education from the University of Newcastle Australia. Mark has worked in a wide variety of teaching and leadership roles in the USA, China and Thailand.

Mark enjoys teaching in IB schools and uses a vast variety of technology platforms during teaching lessons to capture the minds of his learners and to also build real world technology skills needed in today's society and workplace.



**School Director - Sineenad Chamat**

**[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Sineenard (Nard) comes from Khon Kaen and holds a Bachelors Degree in Computer Education from Rajabhat Institute of Suan Dusit in Bangkok. She also holds a Masters of Education from Khon Kaen University. She has over 18 years of experience teaching a range of subjects in Thai schools including Thai language, social studies, Thai history and computing. Nard is a patient, hard working teacher who is always willing to learn new things and pass those onto her students.



### **Early Years Coordinator - Phibzia Siddiqui**

#### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Phibzia holds a Master's Degree in Education (TEFL) from the National University of Laos. She has also completed a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) and an Advanced diploma in "Early Childhood Development" from ECD-Affiliated Edith Cowan University (Australia). She has 13 years of teaching experience around Asia and has training and experience in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). She has over 16 years in education and 7 of those in the IB settings. She has taught in Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

Phibzia has a passion and the energy for English language learning and teaching across all levels of students. She is also very enthusiastic and passionate about teaching early years and loves to design play and inquiry based learning environments for the learners. She has been with the school for a number of years and brings an experienced, inquiry approach to our teaching in the Early Years.



### **Primary Years Coordinator - Charlotte Trufit**

#### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Charlotte is a qualified teacher from Cardiff in Wales, UK with a degree in Primary Education from York St John University in England. Charlotte has over 13 years of experience teaching a variety of levels from early to primary years students. She has taught in the UK, China, Thailand and Uzbekistan.

Charlotte is an enthusiastic and passionate teacher who loves to bring play and inquiry into the classroom. She has a love for arts and crafts and thrives on organisation; it is her favourite pastime! Charlotte is also a curious inquirer of other cultures and cuisines and has travelled around South East Asia with her husband and two children trying different foods and learning the local customs.

Charlotte is fully committed to providing personalised learning opportunities and experiences to best meet the needs of all children. Her favourite subjects to teach are Phonics and Geography. Charlotte is returning to UDIS having previously taught Preschool for two years and holding the position of Early Years Coordinator, she is

excited to be re-joining us as the Year 2 Teacher and PYP Coordinator!



**Middle Years Programme Coordinator - Jay Randall**  
[Video introduction for learners](#)

Jay is a qualified teacher from Canada with a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of King's College, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Arts in Global History from Humboldt University and the Free University of Berlin. He has many years of success in teaching and coordinating IB subjects and programs with past roles as MYP Coordinator and Assistant DP Coordinator. He has previously worked at IB schools in Canada, Germany, and Antigua, as well as with the UN in Angola.

Jay is joined at UDIS by his wife Marie and daughter Simone. Outside of the classroom he loves to get involved with outdoor education, school trips, student exchanges, and athletics to help guide students to become active citizens, realise their holistic potential and to develop student leadership, engagement, and community involvement.



**Diploma Programme Coordinator - Charles Cejka**  
[Video introduction for learners](#)

Charles is an experienced pedagogical leader and teacher with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Waterloo in Canada. He also holds a Bachelor of Education from Trent University in Canada. He has 15 years of international teaching experience from schools in Saudi Arabia, Germany and the United Arab Emirates, and has served as a Head of Department and school leader in IB continuum schools for over 10 years. Most recently, he held the roles of IB Diploma Programme Coordinator and IB Career-related Programme Coordinator at an international school in Dubai.

Charles is a passionate advocate of the IB philosophy and has been an examiner in Biology for the IB since 2015 as well as a content developer of resources to be used by IB teachers. As a global citizen, he enjoys working in the international school setting and embraces innovative teaching approaches to develop inquiry skills in learners.

## Early years teachers



### **Preschool/K1 - Chananchida Sriwong**

Chananchida (Dae) is our wonderful, new Preschool teacher. Dae has been with UDIS for over 5 years and joined us originally as a Teaching Assistant working with some of the best Early Years teachers we had at the school. Dae has both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Humanities (English) and is a qualified teacher in Thailand having completed her Graduate of Teaching Diploma. Dae has a tremendous love for her learners and in Preschool works to settle them into school life and give them the skills they need to progress to K1.



### **Preschool/K1 - Phibzia Siddiqui**

#### [Video introduction for learners](#)

Phibzia holds a Master's Degree in Education (TEFL) from the National University of Laos. She has also completed a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) and an Advanced diploma in "Early Childhood Development" from ECD-Affiliated Edith Cowan University (Australia). She has 13 years of teaching experience around Asia and has training and experience in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). She has over 16 years in education and 7 of those in the IB settings. She has taught in Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

Phibzia has a passion and the energy for English language learning and teaching across all levels of students. She is also very enthusiastic and passionate about teaching early years and loves to design play and inquiry based learning environments for the learners. She has been with the school for a number of years and brings an experienced, inquiry approach to our teaching in the Early Years.



## **K2 - Henry Charlton**

### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Henry is a qualified teacher from Newcastle in the UK and has been teaching in primary schools since he graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University back in 2006. He has taught in a variety of countries including Thailand, Saudi Arabia and the UK. Henry has also gained his DELTA, CELTA and CELTA young learner extension which makes him extremely well qualified for the second language learners we have in Early Years. Teaching is something that he is incredibly passionate about and he still approaches the occupation with the same energy and enthusiasm he did when he first started teaching.

In his spare time, Henry enjoys listening to music, playing guitar (badly), cooking and reading. He loves sports although these days it's more watching them than actually playing them. His favourites are cricket, rugby, boxing and Muay Thai and his goal in the near future is to learn how to sail.

## Primary years teachers



## **Year 1 - Charlie Ramsey**

### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Charlotte (Charlie) is from York in North Yorkshire, England. She completed her Primary Education degree at the University of Sunderland in the North East of England. Charlotte has taught in both primary and secondary schools including work in learning support settings for the last 13 years.

Charlotte is enthusiastic and passionate about teaching and learning. She has a love for music and drama, especially musicals and is currently learning to speak Brazilian Portuguese. Charlotte is also a keen traveller and has travelled throughout Thailand.

Charlotte is fully committed to providing essential learning opportunities and strategies to all children. Her favourite subjects to teach are Phonics and Mathematics. Charlotte is excited to move into Year 1 this year and continue with her role as the Assistant Learning Support Coordinator.



## **Year 2 - Charlotte Trufit**

### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Charlotte is a qualified teacher from Cardiff in Wales, UK with a degree in Primary Education from York St John University in England. Charlotte has over 13 years of experience teaching a variety of levels from early to primary years students. She has taught in the UK, China, Thailand and Uzbekistan.

Charlotte is an enthusiastic and passionate teacher who loves to bring play and inquiry into the classroom. She has a love for arts and crafts and thrives on organisation; it is her favourite pastime! Charlotte is also a curious inquirer of other cultures and cuisines and has travelled around South East Asia with her husband and two children trying different foods and learning the local customs.

Charlotte is fully committed to providing personalised learning opportunities and experiences to best meet the needs of all children. Her favourite subjects to teach are Phonics and Geography. Charlotte is returning to UDIS having previously taught Preschool for two years and holding the position of Early Years Coordinator, she is excited to be re-joining us as the Year 2 Teacher and PYP Coordinator!



## **Year 3 & Learning Support Coordinator - Kane Fawcett**

### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Kane comes from New Zealand and he graduated from Victoria University of Wellington with a Bachelor of Science before completing his Post Graduate Diploma in Primary Education at Massey University. He has taught internationally in Thailand and New Zealand. Kane taught Years 2-6 for eight years in New Zealand before moving to UDIS where he has taught Years 3 and 4.

Kane believes that the best learning happens when it is authentic because it makes sense to children, and they want to learn. Kane is committed to providing as much authentic learning to his students as possible. He is passionate about music and loves to play guitar and sing songs. He also has a love of science, mathematics, making movies, football and food.

Kane is also the learning support coordinator here at UDIS and works alongside staff and students to provide programmes of support or extension for relevant students. He enjoys the challenge of supporting all students to reach their potential and to help them be the best that they can be.



#### **Year 4 - John Eastham**

##### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

John holds a Masters degree in International Education from Oxford Brookes University in the UK and has taught throughout the Primary age range (5 to 11) in the UK, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand and Myanmar.

John has worked in a variety of roles including Principal, Assistant Principal, Curriculum Leader and Class Teacher. He is delighted to be at UDIS at a time when our membership of CIS has been approved and we are an IB Primary Years World School. This ensures quality internationally based learning, the development of independent learners and an inquiry based approach for all UDIS students..



#### **Year 5/6 - John Kelly**

##### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

John was born in Glasgow, Scotland, where it is usually cold, wet and windy and lived there for the first 16 years of his life before immigrating to Australia with his family. In Western Australia he was awarded a Bachelor of Education at Curtin University. John has taught in Australia, England, Turkey, Thailand, Qatar and Kuwait over three decades. During his time in these countries he has taught all grades of primary school.

John considers himself an open, creative and friendly teacher who is a keen advocate for the development of community within a school. John believes that students must be engaged, challenged and able to reflect independently and collaboratively about their learning.

John has worked at UDIS for five years and is looking forward to his next two years at the school. He is the health and safety coordinator at the school and is also the school's Child Safeguarding Coordinator.

John is an active member of the Udon Thani community. He plays football with the local police officers and basketball with the UMT basketball team in town.





### **EAL Teacher - Liza Magbanua**

Liza is a qualified teacher from the Philippines holding a Diploma in Teacher Education and a Bachelor's degree from the Philippines' last ecological frontier, Palawan. She has also completed her 120-hour TEFL certification and her level 1 PYP training. Liza has worked at different international schools in Bangkok. She was part of the Learning Support Team at St Andrews International School Sathorn before becoming a Primary EAL Teacher at Rasami British International School and St Andrews International School 107.

Liza has been working as an EAL teacher for more than ten years and she has also gained a lot of experience supporting children with learning difficulties especially in Mathematics. Liza has also helped organise school events such as the World Education Games and Tournament of Minds to give learners an opportunity to demonstrate their collaboration and problem-solving skills in creative ways.

This is Liza's third year in our school and she is enjoying learning new things like Speech Therapy and teaching Drama to young learners.

## Middle years teachers



### **MYP Individuals & Societies and Language & Literature (English) - Jay Randall**

#### [Video introduction for learners](#)

Jay is a qualified teacher from Canada with a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of King's College, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Arts in Global History from Humboldt University and the Free University of Berlin. He has many years of success in teaching and coordinating IB subjects and programs with past roles as MYP Coordinator and Assistant DP Coordinator. He has previously worked at IB schools in Canada, Germany, and Antigua, as well as with the UN in Angola.

Jay is joined at UDIS by his wife Marie and daughter Simone. Outside of the classroom he loves to get involved with outdoor education, school trips, student exchanges, and athletics to help guide students to become active citizens, realise their holistic potential and to develop student leadership, engagement, and community involvement.



**MYP English Language & Literature, Language Acquisition (English) and Assistant Principal**

**- Mark Abbadessa**

**[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Mark is a dual licensed teacher from America and began his teaching career in 2009. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Elementary Education with a specialisation in Special Education from William Paterson University. Mark has also achieved a Masters Degree in Literacy from the University of New England. He has attended additional postgraduate teaching courses at North Dakota State University. Mark has completed multiple PYP and MYP training courses as well as received his TEFL certificate. He has worked in both public and international school settings in the USA, China and Thailand and has taught children from Kindergarten up to Year 9.

Mark enjoys teaching in IB schools and uses a vast variety of technology platforms during teaching lessons to capture the minds of his students and to also build real world technology skills needed in today's society and workplace.



**MYP Mathematics, Language Acquisition (English) and Design - Wouter Scott**

**[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Wouter Scott (Barend) is a qualified and licensed Science educator from South Africa. He graduated in 2013 and started teaching as soon as he completed his Bachelor of Education in Natural sciences. In his 10 years of teaching, Barend has taught Mathematics, physics, natural science as well as English as a home and first additional language. He is very passionate about his profession and loves facilitating his students in becoming more knowledgeable and proficient in life. He has taught at multiple institutes over his career, most notably Assumption college Bangrak and Roong Aroon international programme in Thailand where he taught GCSE combined sciences and IB MYP Science and Mathematics.

As a lifelong learner, Barend loves reading, gardening and exploring the natural world while hiking and travelling.



## **MYP Science - Charles Cejka**

### [Video introduction for learners](#)

Charles is an experienced pedagogical leader and teacher with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Waterloo in Canada. He also holds a Bachelor of Education from Trent University in Canada. He has 15 years of international teaching experience from schools in Saudi Arabia, Germany and the United Arab Emirates, and has served as a Head of Department and school leader in IB continuum schools for over 10 years. Most recently, he held the roles of IB Diploma Programme Coordinator and IB Career-related Programme Coordinator at an international school in Dubai.

Charles is a passionate advocate of the IB philosophy and has been an examiner in Biology for the IB since 2015 as well as a content developer of resources to be used by IB teachers. As a global citizen, he enjoys working in the international school setting and embraces innovative teaching approaches to develop inquiry skills in learners.

## Whole school specialist teachers



### **PSPE - Ranouver 'Xavi' Pereira**

Xavi is a qualified teacher from Brazil and holds a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from the Federal University of Ceará. He is a professional physical educator and swimming teacher who has over 8 years experience in Brazil, Thailand, the Philippines and Laos. Xavi is also a licensed football coach by Football Association from England (The FA) and the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) with experience in youth football in Brazil with clubs like Cruzeiro Esporte Clube and Grêmio Foot-Ball Porto Alegre. He is also responsible for the Brazilian methodology of teaching football at the Cruzeiro Soccer School Asia which has branches in Thailand, Japan, Laos and the Philippines.

Xavi is a huge fan of football and sports culture around the world and also, he is very passionate and a great collector about music in general, from Rock and Roll to Bossa Nova.



### **PY Visual Arts, MY Integrated Arts - Marie-Christine Rivest** [Video introduction for learners](#)

Marie-Christine (Marie) is a qualified teacher from Canada with a Bachelor of Education from the University of Montreal and a Master of Educational Leadership from the University of Ottawa. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Education. Marie has also studied music, specifically classical guitar, at Lionel-Groulx College. Marie has extensive experience at IB international schools in the leadership of language departments, language teaching and supervision of personal projects and extended essays. She has also been a school principal and a consultant for differentiation, gifted students, and language learning in Canada.

Marie believes in the necessity of holistic education: as Aristotle said, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." At UDIS she is joined by her husband Jay and their daughter Simone.



### **Library and EY/PY Music - Paul Surbey**

Paul is a qualified teacher from Canada. He graduated with a Bachelor of Education from the University of Winnipeg (2014) and EAL certification from the same university in 2008. He has worked previously in Canada before moving to Thailand and teaching in a variety of international schools here. Paul has been working with kids in music for almost 20 years, loves to play his guitar and enjoys teaching singing and dancing to kids.

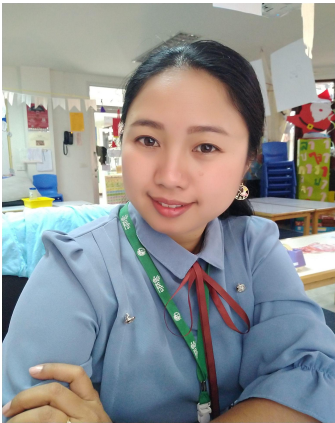
Paul has particular expertise in Reggio inspired curriculum, the PYP and problem based learning. He has a strong track record of cultivating child-centred curriculum and student creativity. Pauls endeavours to be a warm and caring teacher who wants all students to be flourishing learners and he works hard to create a classroom environment that is exciting, supportive and adaptive to the various needs of his students.



### **Thai Language Teacher - Sineenad Chamat**

#### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Sineenard (Nard) comes from Khon Kaen and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Education from Rajabhat Institute of Suan Dusit in Bangkok. She also holds a Masters of Education from Khon Kaen University. She has over 18 years of experience teaching a range of subjects in Thai schools including Thai language, social studies, Thai history and computing. Nard is a patient, hard working teacher who is always willing to learn new things and pass those onto her students.



### **Thai Language Teacher - Hattaya (Doum) Siritto**

#### **[Video introduction for learners](#)**

Hattaya (Doum) holds a Bachelor of Art in English from Udon Thani Rajabhat University and a Graduate Diploma in Teaching from Santapol College. Doum is a Thai specialist teacher teaching Thai culture and language primarily to Early Years and Thai as an Additional Language (TAL) to Primary Years. She is familiar with a range of teaching strategies to differentiate her teaching to meet the Thai language needs of learners. Doum also brings a range of skills to the school and particularly enjoys drawing, Thai dance and handicrafts.



**Thai Language Teacher - Kevin Charles**

Kevin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Udon Thani Rajabhat University. He has been certified and involved in IB Primary Years and Middle Years programmes at Udon Thani International School for 5 years.

Kevin has worked to become principled, open-minded, and risk-taking in his current career as a teacher. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys reading and listening to podcasts about Thai and international literature, especially mythology.

This academic year, he will be the Primary Years and Middle Years specialist teacher in Thai Language and Literature for his 6th year at UDIS.