

Pearson *times*

NEWSLETTER OF LESTER B. PEARSON COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC

The United World Colleges makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. [United World College Mission]

a STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL focus

The United World Colleges (UWC) are unique. They make up the only global educational movement which brings together students from all over the world – selected on personal merit, irrespective of race, religion, politics or the ability to pay – with the explicit aim of fostering peace and international understanding.

Sustainability is a critical issue for United World Colleges. The UWC mission statement commits the movement to education for a sustainable future and therefore implies that UWC must itself become a sustainable organization. In March 2007 the UWC International Board established a policy of no increases and, where possible, encourages a decrease in the use of energy, water and paper on a per-student basis in all twelve colleges worldwide. “We need to hold ourselves accountable today by measuring our environmental impact, however difficult and uncomfortable it may be,” Director David Hawley wrote in the March 2007 issue of United World.

Located on the rugged shores of the Pacific amidst the Garry Oak and old growth Douglas Fir forest

ecosystem on Vancouver Island, Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific has always maintained a strong environmental presence and focus. Renowned architects Ron Thom and Barry Downs made excellent use of the physical setting, creating a seaside village of wood timber buildings linked by footpaths when they designed the campus in the early 1970’s.

This remote forest “village” provides an ideal classroom for the international students to experience new environmental and sustainability concepts and to share traditional concepts culture to culture. In addition to a long history of environmental stewardship at Race Rocks, early students, faculty and staff were actively engaged in forestry activities and salmon enhancement in nearby creeks. There was also a firm commitment to recycling that has led to the strict procedures in place today and the annual eco-audit to assess the ecological footprint of the College.

“Given the interdependence of all living things and the urgent need to address the challenge of climate change, every part of our world must be treated as environ-



Students, faculty and staff serve as environmental stewards for the sensitive ecosystem at Race Rocks.

mentally sensitive,” asserts College Director David Hawley. “Our goal is to find ways to reduce our impact on the planet. Beyond the work we have done at Race Rocks, we have taken a number of important steps towards being more sustainable. We replaced all of our showerheads, reducing water flow by 50 per cent to two litres per minute and installed new dual six or three litre per-flush model toilets throughout the campus. Our open fireplaces have been fitted with high efficiency wood stoves, we have plans for a

“Our goal is to find ways to reduce our impact on the planet.”

David B. Hawley, College Director

bio diesel plant which will allow us to convert waste vegetable oil from our cafeteria and local restaurants to fuel for use in our boats and campus vehicles. We have started an organic farming project and are establishing relationships with local growers so our cafeteria food will come from increasingly local sources.

David Hawley describes future plans at the College, “We have a much longer list of things we are exploring. These include installing underground or underwater heat pumps to heat our buildings, solar water heaters for our pool, wind turbines overlooking the campus, replacing all of our single-pane windows with double-pane low-e models, upgrading all appliances to energy efficient models, installing green roofs – growing perennial herbs on our rooftops.”



CORNELIA HAHN OBERLANDER KURT HAHN’S VISION CONTINUES

The United World College movement was founded over forty-five years ago and originated with the ideas of German educator Kurt Hahn who believed traditions of hostility and conflict could be overcome if young people from various nations, races and religions could be brought together to learn from each other. Today there are twelve

United World Colleges, each with its own distinctive character, but sharing a common mission and values. In the turbulent world of the twenty-first century, Kurt Hahn’s theories are as relevant today as they were in 1962 – perhaps more so.

Pearson College has been fortunate for many years to have world-renowned landscape

architect Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, Kurt Hahn’s niece, as a friend of the College and architectural consultant.

Cornelia Oberlander has worked to re-establish the native plant landscaping on the Pedder Bay campus. In addition she has been instrumental along with architects Eva Matsuzaki and David Rousseau in the GreenHome project. After extensive consultation with the campus community they have produced a sustainable (GreenHome) design for the

CORNELIA HAHN OBERLANDER
Continued from cover

renovation initially of student residence Calgary House and then ideally the other four student residences.

Cornelia Oberlander's landscape design not only works to integrate the overall architectural project with the natural environment, but also does so by respecting and enhancing the native landscape.



Cornelia Oberlander, Eva Matsuzaki and David Rousseau have designed the GreenHome project with extensive community input.



Calgary House will be renovated as part of the proposed GreenHome Project.

Her work has increasingly been concerned with the design and development of environmentally responsible landscapes. She made use of indigenous plants in her landscape design for the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia (UBC), specifying plants that were used by Northwest Coast First Nations Peoples for food and medicines.

The C.K. Choi Building at UBC (Matsuzaki/Wright Architects, 1996) set new standards for sustainable design, construction and operations. By way of very inventive engineering and landscaping, it was not necessary to connect the Choi building to municipal storm and sanitary sewers. The notion of a building "off the grid" was thus spawned.

Speaking to students at the convocation at Simon Fraser University in 2002, Cornelia Oberlander summarized her passion for sustainable design:

"Achieving a fit between the built form and the land has been my dictum. I dream of green cities with green buildings where rural and urban activities live in harmony."

Some of Oberlander's numerous awards include the Order of Canada (1990), the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Allied Arts Medal (1995) and the Lifetime Achievement Award, Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (2006). For her innovative work in landscape design she has received honorary degrees from University of British Columbia (1991), Simon Fraser University (2002), Smith College (2003), Dalhousie University (2008) and McGill University (2008).

oikos project is LAUNCHED

By Alex Fletcher, PC 27 Canada and
Virginie Lavallée-Picard, PC 27 Canada

Five years ago we left the forested shores of Pedder Bay to study Human Ecology at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. The field of Human Ecology examines the relationship between society and the natural environment with an emphasis on an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving. This calls for creativity and collaboration between a wide range of academic disciplines, integrating diverse personal experience and a broad spectrum of perspectives. Our experiences at Pearson College and at the College of the Atlantic were quite complementary since both are dedicated to the promotion of increased awareness, respect and the need to take responsibility in a complex, interconnected and challenging world.

We returned to Pearson College last fall and participated in the ongoing dialogue and effort to make the campus more sustainable. We knew that this process

"It was apparent that the College needed to rise above the 'green', 'sustainable' and 'climate friendly' rhetoric that has become overwhelmingly trendy these days."

presented a unique opportunity to promote the kind of change that we had been taught to seek. It was quickly apparent however that the College needed to rise above the 'green', 'sustainable' and 'climate friendly' rhetoric that has become overwhelmingly trendy these days. Pearson College was founded on the highest of ideals and vision and has a responsibility to lead by innovation and example.

The Oikos Project aims to do just that. The project is the result of Director David Hawley's leadership and the generous support of the Ivey Foundation. Oikos is

Local producers welcomed David Hawley and students to their farms on Special Topics Day.



Students check out the green roof at the Burnside Gorge Community Centre.

the Greek etymological root of two words: 'economics' (oikonomia) and 'ecology' (oikologia). 'Oikos' means the 'household', 'home' or 'family'. Accordingly, ecology is the study of the home and economics is its management.

The Pearson College oikos perspective encompasses the allocation of inputs and the production of outputs that provide and maintain the overall systems which keep everyone here safe, warm and well fed – essential elements for a happy, healthy community which fosters educational excellence. Ideally, and logically, our economic systems and models would reflect our evolving understanding of the ecological underpinnings of our world: its finite resources, carrying capacities, limits to growth, resilience in diversity and essential ecological services.

At Pearson College the Oikos Project seeks to:

- establish baselines of inputs and outputs;
- set targets and measuring progress;

- articulate policies that reflect long-term ambitions;
- take concrete actions on water conservation;
- integrate renewable energy;
- increase local food security;
- and measure real savings and reinvest those savings to further reduce costs and needs.

In so doing there is the potential to enhance the educational experience and value for current and future international students and to greatly embolden the mission of the College. The grant portion of this project will continue until October of this year. For more information about the Oikos Project and to view our work in progress please visit www.pearson-college.ca/oikos/index.htm. Please feel free to contact us and help make this project a success!

Graduates Alex and Virginie, both PC 27 Canada, are working as Oikos Project Coordinators along with Activities Assistant Steph Levy and Director of Operations Chris Blondeau who is the Oikos Project Manager. Virginie attended the College on the Holt Foundation Annual Scholarship.

GRADUATES SPEAK UP FOR SUSTAINABILITY



William Asigau
PC 1 Papua New Guinea

William served as Environmental Programs Coordinator with the United Nations Development Program in Papua New Guinea and later returned to the University of Papua New Guinea to teach conservation strategies in the Environment Science Program. In 1999 William formed an environment and conservation consulting firm and is currently Environmental Management Adviser for Infrastructure Development projects funded by the World Bank and other donors in Papua New Guinea.

For the past ten years William has volunteered to run the Hiri East Conservation Program, a community program that serves four large villages with a combined population of over ten thousand people. He is also the elder in a village of two thousand people.

“My Pearson experience truly helped me to choose the issues of sustainability because we all depend on the environment for our livelihood and survival.”

William reflects, “I was always interested in the environmental field since I come from a rural coastal village in Central province of PNG and my people depended on the environment for their livelihood. The Pearson College setting re-enforced my interest in pursuing a career in the environmental field. Service to the people is central to this conviction and my Pearson experience truly helped me to choose the issues of sustainability because we all depend on the environment for our livelihood and survival.” ■



Robert Hornung
PC 7 Canada

Robert’s career has focused on environmental issues, with a primary focus on climate change. He has worked on this issue from within government, business and the non-profit sector.

Pearson College encouraged Robert to work on social issues and influenced his choice of educational program and career. He realized that “any work to make the world a better place has great value – no matter how large or small the result” and that “all sectors of society have a role to play and must collaborate for sustainable solutions.”

He emphasizes that, “The College location provides ample opportunities to appreciate our natural environment. The diverse mix of students provided me with an opportunity to understand the fundamental importance of the environment within different cultures while also providing some insight into the ways human activity is influencing the quality of the natural environment for future generations.”

Since 2003, Robert has served as President of the Canadian Wind Energy Association representing CanWEA’s more than 340 corporate members. He manages CanWEA’s policy research, advocacy and communications activities, as well as conferences and special events. He is also a Board Member of the Global Wind Energy Council. ■



Analisa Balares
PC 19 Philippines

Analisa recalls that her time at Pearson College changed her life and she carries her experiences everywhere she goes. “I remember the conversations lasting deep into the night. We were from many countries

doing great things side by side! We read poetry by the bay before dawn. We taught each other dances and songs. We peered at galaxies after midnight. We climbed mountains. We laughed and cried together.”

Analisa states, “Poverty and environmental issues always troubled me and I believe science and technology are key to solving these problems.” She founded Womensphere™ to inspire and empower women who are making a difference around the world. In addition, she created and leads Huckleberry Interactive Technologies, which develops online media, social media and mobile technologies for communities.

“My UWC experience has had an enormous impact on my life – my relationships with people, and the world and my vision for my business and my life work.”

Analisa is presently undertaking initiatives to enhance the economic development of the Philippines. She has set up the Liberty, Education and Achievement Development (LEAD), to provide aid for teachers and disadvantaged children. “I have always intended to return to the Philippines to contribute to my country. The UWC experience inspired me to want to have a positive impact on the whole world.” ■



Josh Vanwyck
PC 28 Canada

Josh is currently on exchange in Lund, Sweden while pursuing a degree in Systems Design Engineering at the University of Waterloo. He is the Past President of the University of Waterloo Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). Over the past few years Josh has studied green buildings and green community policies and technologies. He has worked with architects and urban planners on green community standards for China and volunteered in a solar lab in Sweden.

Josh has always been interested in the environment. Pearson College provided some unique experiences that helped to focus his ideas. “I was surprised to find no clotheslines at the College,” he recalls. “Getting the clotheslines up and used was a challenge, but kindled in me a desire to learn not only how to have the right technologies, but how to work with people to figure out how those technologies and methods can fit into or improve their lives. Preserving beautiful spaces like the forest surrounding the College is a real passion of mine.” ■

ways to give

Whether you are supporting annual student scholarships, Race Rocks, student aid or endowment funds in support of the College, we are working hard to ensure that supporting students is as easy and convenient as possible.

We invite you to visit our website where you will find “Ways to Give” information that will assist you in your personal giving to Pearson College.

pearsoncollege.ca/ways_giving.htm

Information for gifts through the US Foundation as well as UWC International are located here as well.

www.pearsoncollegeusfoundation.org
www.uwc.org/support

Please call Denise Robertson if you have questions about making a gift.
(250) 391-2485



GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

By Humera, PC 33 Canada

Smearred in soil and smelling of compost, the **Growing Opportunities** group can be found hard at work after classes on Thursday afternoons. In an effort to improve campus sustainability, these students have taken up many new initiatives such as cultivating a greenhouse and vegetable garden, building a new compost system and planting fruit trees around campus. The students also regularly bike to neighbouring farms to learn from local farmers and recently organized an interactive



exhibit for the campus community on water issues around the world.

Eager to be outside, the Growing Opportunities group values hands on engagement in order to appreciate the great resources available on campus. This year has brought many successes; composted soil to be used in the garden, as well as

several harvests of lettuce leaves for the cafeteria salad bar. Enthusiastic pruning parties head out to care for 20 newly planted fruit trees that are part of an initiative to improve sustainability by eating locally.

As a student-led initiative, Growing Opportunities encourages students to find the balance between the practical and academic, working with their hands while developing a greater understanding of the issues surrounding sustainability. The group has made a lasting impact, engaging the community in discussion and action on eating locally, buying fair trade and living for a sustainable future.

Humera attends Pearson College on the Government of Ontario Scholarship.



SPECIAL TOPICS DAY

By Clare, PC 33, Canada

In January students and faculty took a day off classes and activities for a Special Topics Day and devoted their time to learning about environmental sustainability. The day began with an opening presentation which introduced the community to the Oikos Project and the concept behind "oikos" – a Greek word referring to the concept of a home within one's own community, country and planet and of everyone's responsibility therein. The day was led and organized by students under the direction of the Oikos Project coordinators, Virginie and Alex, both Pearson College alumni. Students led workshops for their peers and participated in everything from paper making, learning about composting and visiting local farms and then giving an overview of their workshop or expedition at the closing session. Some students undertook an energy audit, measuring the energy output of each room. To conclude the day, the "Oikos Dinner" was served using mainly local foodstuffs such as locally made sausages and carrots and potatoes from a nearby Metchosin farm. Initiatives were begun, imaginations went wild and students not only undertook practical endeavors, but also learned what a single individual can do to make a difference.

Clare attends the College on the Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship funded by the Province of BC.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GROUP ESTABLISHED

By Erica, PC 34 Tanzania

The phenomenal location of Pearson College gives students a unique opportunity to explore the diversity of nature. Amid the Douglas Fir forests and Garry Oak meadows the Pearson community is closely attached to nature. This attachment orients the Pearson society towards seeking a sustainable future in preserving the environment for the present and the future. Environmental sustainability is given priority at the College and the recently formed student activity, the **Environmental Stewardship Group**, is working on a number of initiatives. The new group has plans to improve the College trail system, increase environmental awareness on campus and create an environmental integrity statement for the College.

A first year student remarked to me recently, "To be honest, I heard the term sustainability for the first time at Pearson College. This has had a really great impact on me and I believe that even the developing world ought to fight for social well being hand in hand with the environmental preservation."

Recently the group had the awesome experience of hiking



"I heard the term sustainability for the first time at Pearson College."

while exploring the wide range of mushroom species found in the forest with local mycologist, Andy MacKinnon. One member of the group stated, "Within the time I have taken part in this activity, I have learned a lot of useful things. It has raised my concern for the natural environment and I want to take more responsibility in protecting it."

Erica from Tanzania attends the College on the Government of Canada Scholarship.



Please VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.pearsoncollege.ca

Check out our web magazine, the "Link" for a snapshot of life on Pedder Bay

"How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don't know each other"

Lester B. Pearson

ARE YOU MOVING?

Please send your new contact information to:

update@pearsoncollege.ca

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