

# PEARSON TIMES

SPRING 2010

United World Colleges makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

United World College Mission



## PRINCE OF WALES VISITS VICTORIA

In November 2009 Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, spent four days in British Columbia as part of their 11-day cross-Canada tour.

During their stay in Victoria, the Royal Couple visited CFB Esquimalt for a morning ceremony. Director **David Hawley** and Prince of Wales Scholarship recipients **Charity, PC 36 Kenya; Zahida, PC 36 Canada; Radu, PC 35 Romania** and **Olga, PC 35 Nicaragua** attended the event and met the **Prince of Wales** and the **Duchess of Cornwall**. "I was very happy to have the opportunity to be able to thank Prince Charles in person for his scholarship support," recalls Radu. "We don't often have a chance to meet our scholarship donors and tell them about our experiences at the College and our plans for the future."

HRH the Prince of Wales served as President of the United World College International Council from 1978 to 1995 succeeding Earl Mountbatten who had held the position since the first days of the UWC in 1967. United World Colleges were opened in Swaziland, the United States and Hong Kong during the Prince of Wales' term as President.

HRH the Prince of Wales and agronomist Dr. Luis Marcano Coello played a key role in the establishment in 1988 of the Simón Bolívar UWC of Agriculture in Venezuela. Situated in the foothills of the Andean Cordillera, the students 'learn by doing', an educational approach that sees the students spend time each day working the land, caring for animals and learning to keep detailed administrative records. The vocational nature of the Simón Bolívar Diploma is reinforced by a four-month internship in an agricultural enterprise.

HRH the Prince of Wales with Olga, Nicaragua; Zahida, Canada; Radu, Romania and Director David Hawley in Victoria, November 2009 and (above right) with students at the College in the early 1980's.

## RACE ROCKS CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

Race Rocks Lighthouse, which has Federal Heritage Building designation, has guided mariners for the past 150 years as they navigated the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Located four kilometres south of Pearson College, Great Race Island was identified by the British Admiralty as the site for a light to aid the ships entering and departing Victoria, Vancouver and Seattle. The navigation beacon was built in an era when travel by ship was the most common way to reach Vancouver Island and the Mainland. The Race Rocks Light was first lit on Boxing Day in 1860. It played a crucial role in the early maritime history of the region – events that included the establishment of Fort Victoria in the 1890's and the Klondike Gold Rush.

A major seven-month restoration of the Race Rocks Lighthouse was completed in late 2009. Funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans under the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act, the work included the most extensive repairs to the tower in decades and was topped

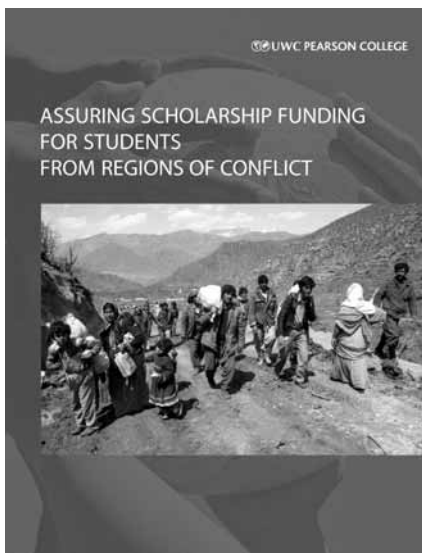
off with the sealing and painting of the distinctive black and white striped exterior.

Today Race Rocks continues to serve an important role in both marine safety and research. In December Race Rocks eco guardians assisted in a successful sea lion rescue. A Steller sea lion was observed on Middle Island entangled in ropes and unable to move from rocks close to the tide line. A joint effort by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Marine Mammal Rescue Centre of the Vancouver Aquarium resulted in freeing the animal. The rescue is thought to be the first time a sea lion has been successfully freed from such an entanglement.

Almost exactly one year after the January 2009 birth of Ninene, resident guardian **Ryan Murphy, PC 26 Canada** reported the birth of a second elephant seal on the island this past January. Ninene was the first elephant seal birth recorded on Race Rocks and likely the first this far north. Ryan reports that the newest resident is doing well.

Please see [www.racerocks.com](http://www.racerocks.com) for photos and further information on these and other Race Rocks stories.





## ASSURING FULL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

Since late 2008 the Pearson College of the Pacific Foundation has undertaken a number of new projects that entail gathering and updating information on the educational, personal and professional accomplishments of the approximately 3,400 graduates of the College. The results of this outreach and research provide important material for the fundraising efforts that support the Full Scholarship Program. "Gathering this information and continually striving to keep it up-to-date is hugely important for the College," states Canadian Foundation Chair James Coutts. "It is crucial to track what our graduates are doing. Both current and prospective donors want to know what Pearson College alumni have gone on to do after their two years here on Pedder Bay. So many of the graduates' stories are inspiring and moving."

A selection of the recently gathered profiles may be viewed in the growing series of 'Case Statements' funded by the Canadian Foundation. Case Statements on AFRICA, ATLANTIC CANADA and a soon to be released document on REGIONS OF CONFLICT are available in the Publications and Media section of the website. [www.pearsoncollege.ca](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca)

## ALUMNI NEWS

### GATHERING IN OTTAWA

In early November alumni, donors, Patrons and Trustees gathered in Ottawa for a Pearson College event. Pearson Trustee and former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable **Joe Clark**, led a panel discussion about the role and place of Pearson College in Canada and the world. The panel included **Jean Drouin, PC 15 Canada, Landon Pearson** and founding Trustee, **Bill Teron. Andrew Cohen** who recently published a biography of Lester Pearson added a special perspective.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH TRUSTEE IAN CHISHOLM

### How did you first learn about Pearson College and the United World Colleges?

There is a photograph from 1981 of my entire family in front of the fireplace in the Jane and Jack Matthews Room. It is the only photograph we have of all three generations in one place and time. My aunt and uncle, Helen and Garry Fletcher, lived on campus and every few years my entire family would congregate at Pearson College for Christmas holidays. I knew from a young age that I would apply to be a Pearson scholar (Ian represented Canada at UWC-USA).

### When did you join the Board of Trustees?

I joined the Board in 2005 and I am now one year into my second three-year term.

### What is your strongest impression of the College so far?

Since April 2009 I have been conducting interviews for VISION 2020 and I am absolutely captivated by the passion of faculty and staff to serve as mentors and catalysts in the experience of Pearson Scholars. I honestly have not been the same since due to the positive impression some of those interviews made on me. A concern that arises for me is the fact that many of our graduates feel that the two years at the College was their Pearson experience. And that now it is over. This is a departure from what I believe we need to offer the world – a dynamic international network of community change-makers. So my impression is that

we need to do better in anchoring this international network – and that they need to respond mightily to our invitation to be involved again.

### What are the principal challenges facing the College in the immediate future?

We are at a very exciting crossroads. It is time for us to conceptually 're-found' the College and to be as brave and as visionary as the original founders were. As a matter of urgency, we must clarify

1. what the world needs most from us,
2. what our response will be and
3. how we demonstrate undeniable proof that we meet these needs in real ways.

### What actions and results have come from the VISION 2020 discussions so far?

Never before has a strategic renewal process involved so many people in the Pearson College community. Everyone has been invited to contribute to the vision. And this continues. This has resulted in a very strong sense of engagement – which is critical for moving forward.

### What would you like to see in the list of accomplishments by the Board over the next two years?

The development of a clear set of characteristics and competencies that define and unite what it means to be a Pearson scholar. These will influence the profile of students we attract and select and the experience that the College offers, all aligning with the promise that we make to position an international network of change-makers.

Please view the VISION 2020 document at: <http://peernet.lbpc.ca/announce/PearsonVision2020.pdf>



College faculty and staff taking part in the VISION 2020 process.

### ALUMNI SUPPORT

A huge thank you to our alumni! We now have well over 200 alumni who have joined us as regular on-line recurring donors. There are also now alumni fundraising volunteers for every graduate year.

We still have a major challenge to maintain the Full Scholarship Policy. All alumni are invited to be part of making this happen. Our alumni goal this year is \$500,000.

To help out please contact Davida at [dstafford@pearsoncollege.ca](mailto:dstafford@pearsoncollege.ca) or 250.391.2485.

## IT'S KIT TIME!

If you have not done so already, this is a kind reminder to enter your personal update to Keep in Touch (KIT). This Pearson College tradition ensures alumni remain linked with one another. Many entries have already been posted and we encourage you to take a look and connect with your fellow alumni.

Login in to the Alumni Directory by clicking on the link at [http://www.pearsoncollege.ca/alumni\\_kit](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca/alumni_kit) You can also view who the current KIT representative is for your PC year and contact them directly if you have any questions or feedback.



## MUJAHED SARSUR, PC 33 PALESTINE

"Initially I felt some anxiety at Pearson College because I worried I had taken on such a different experience, but I mostly felt pride knowing that I had the nerve to take the risk of trying something so different, far away from my family and people."

"As time went by I felt a hunger for deeper knowledge about the Israel / Palestine conflict. For my second year at the College, I requested to live with an Israeli roommate. And it happened!" Mujahed recalls.

"It was an experience that simply changed my life and helped me get to know my roommate **Yarin, PC 34** not only as an Israeli, but also as a human being."

Mujahed is currently studying Political Science and Hebrew at Bard College in New York. "I have been very active in the community right from my first semester," he remarks. "The Muslim Student Organization had its first joint event with the Jewish Student Organization as soon as I became its president. I also founded the Bard Palestinian Youth Initiative (BPYI) which organizes programs to empower Palestinian youth emotionally and socially."

In the summer of 2009 Mujahed organized the first BPYI Summer Camp. Thirteen teenagers, including **Natan, PC 33 Israel**, took part in the three-week leadership and community service program in his village, Mas'ha, on the West Bank. After some difficulty Mujahed was able to arrange a visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Jerusalem. The youths represented the first group of Palestinians to visit the museum in several years and the first Palestinian educational group to visit the museum in its history. "I'm aware that not many Palestinians come to visit Yad Vashem," Mujahed explains. "Palestinians hear about the Holocaust, but never learn the real facts. It is very challenging for us." Please see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fq9cljz9cpk>

Mujahed plans to do graduate studies on the Palestine / Israel conflict at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and then study for a degree in Law. "I see my future in Palestine and Israel, perhaps in the government of Palestine," he states. "I want to be active and serve in ending the suffering of both Palestinians and Israelis."



## RAMYA RAMAMURTHY, PC 23 INDIA

"My first weeks at Pearson College in the fall of 1996 seemed like a blur of faces from around the world, frenetic activities during orientation week, 2 am conversations about the meaning of life and getting used to the idea that 'home' was in a remote forest at the other end of the world with 200 other accomplished teenagers!" exclaims Ramya. "It was scary, exhilarating and everyone seemed to be poised at the threshold of an 'experience' we would never forget."

"I encountered a new style of interactive, peer-to-peer conversational teaching that I hadn't encountered before in my school life. I discovered what it means to apply oneself to one's studies and I am grateful to every one of my teachers for this. I remember waking up in the morning and looking forward to lessons – I'd never encountered teachers who were as enthused about their subjects and it definitely rubbed off on the students."

"My decision to become a broadcast journalist was forged at the College. I made a dramatic shift from my plans for a career in Science and chose to study Literature and Philosophy. The writing skills and the understanding of the world I picked up there and later in my undergraduate studies sharpened my ambition to work as a media professional."

Ramya believes a Pearson College education creates a global citizen with the humane attitude to care for or support those less privileged. "Now more than ever, we need students with this unique worldview and the ability to give back to their communities. The scholarship donors make all this possible and earn the gratitude of Pearson alumni and the generations to come."

Ramya returned to India after her two years at Pearson College. She completed a BA and MA in English Literature as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism. She was Associate Director on the recently completed film *Inside Mumbai Terror Attacks* for National Geographic Channel. Please see [www.gomolo.in/features/article.aspx?ArticleID=241](http://www.gomolo.in/features/article.aspx?ArticleID=241)

# 1,000 @ \$1,000

## NOW'S THE TIME TO TAKE PART IN THE FUTURE OF PEARSON COLLEGE!

As one of 1,000 alumni and friends of the College pledging \$1,000 per year through our recurring gift program, you will help provide \$1.2 M in scholarship support for students at Pearson College.

For just \$2.74 per day you will join a circle of donors helping to sustain our Full Scholarship Policy and ensure that youth with exceptional promise and potential are selected to attend Pearson College regardless of personal finances.

Our goal of 1,000 @ \$1,000 will fund the education of 35 change-makers every year.



## MISSION DRIVEN, DONOR SUPPORTED

Donor support ensures that students are accepted on merit and not on ability to pay. Each of our 200 students receives a full scholarship which includes tuition, room and board. The two year program costs \$68,000 per student.

There are many ways to support Pearson College including:

- MONTHLY GIVING
- ONE-TIME GIFTS
- PLANNED GIFTS

We accept cash, cheques, credit cards and international bank transfers. You can make your gift via mail, phone or on-line.

For more information, please contact the Development Office: **1.250.391.2481** or [development@pearsoncollege.ca](mailto:development@pearsoncollege.ca)

Charitable tax receipts are available to residents of Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. Please visit [www.pearsoncollege.ca/contribute](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca/contribute) for more information on how to make a gift.

We look forward to welcoming new donors!



## RETURN TO PEARSON COLLEGE THIS SUMMER!

10 YEAR reunion PC 25 & 26 / August 14-18

30 YEAR reunion PC 4, 5 & 6 / August 18-22

for reunion information and to volunteer please visit: [www.pearsoncollege.ca/alumni\\_events](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca/alumni_events)



## ALUMNI PARTICIPATE IN THE COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE

In addition to our current students' concerns and actions for a more environmentally sustainable campus and world, over the years many Pearson College graduates have gone on to study and work in the environment / climate change field. Therefore it is not surprising that in December 2009 a number of College alumni took part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly known as the COP 15 – Copenhagen Summit. Those attending the conference included **Lene Espersen, PC 9**, Deputy Prime Minister of Denmark and newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs; **Daniel Mittler, PC 17**, German Program, European Climate Foundation and **Douglas Alexander, PC 11**, UK Secretary for International Development.

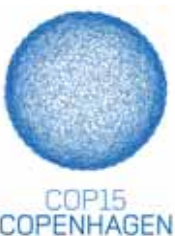
Also in attendance were **Navroz Dubash, PC 11 India**, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and **Jean-Marc Mangin, PC 8 Canada**, Executive Director of the TckTckTck campaign.

**Juan Carlos Soriano, PC 31 Peru** and **Oliver Bruce, PC 30 New Zealand** were youth delegates to the conference from the College of the Atlantic (Maine, USA). Juan Carlos is Partnerships Coordinator of SustainUS, The US Youth Network for Sustainable Development.

"Undoubtedly my time at Pearson College has had a profound effect on shaping my subsequent work in public service," reflects Douglas Alexander.

"I look back on my time at UWC with huge affection and even greater gratitude. "The Full Scholarship Policy creates a fascinating and diverse mix of students from around the world. I recollect Lester B. Pearson's Nobel Address of 1957 in which he said 'How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don't know each other?' Those words and that vision have continued to inspire me in the two decades since I graduated."

Daniel Mittler is providing strategy advice and issuing grants to prevent the building of new coal fired power stations in Germany and to create pressure for Germany to deliver the 40% emissions cut by 2020 that the government has promised. "Professionally, my interest to work on a global level was borne out of my UWC experience and I believe that experience equipped me to work cross-culturally.



## ABORIGINAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Connor, PC 35 Canada** has received the Volunteer Service Award from The Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards (AAYAA), an annual event celebrating the achievement of Aboriginal Youth across Alberta. "I started volunteering at a local soup kitchen with my mom when I was six," Connor recalls. "It was then I found out how much joy volunteering gave me."

The Métis Nation of Alberta began the AAYAA in 2003 to encourage and support excellence among Alberta's Aboriginal Youth, including Métis, Status, Non Status and Inuit. Students in the Aboriginal Multi-Media Arts Program (AMMP) at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology were invited to make short video profiles about each award winner. Please visit our website [www.pearsoncollege.ca](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca) to view Connor's video.

## STUDENTS THANK OUR DONORS

If you have made a donation to the College recently it is very likely you have received a phone call from a Pearson College student. Each week a dedicated group of students assist the Development Department by phoning our supporters to express their thanks for a recent gift.

"It is always a pleasure to be able to personally thank Pearson College donors," **Felix, PC 36 Ghana** states. "Their generous support is so important for the Full Scholarship Program here at the College."



UWC is the only global educational movement that brings together students from all over the world – selected on personal merit, irrespective of race, religion, politics and the ability to pay – with the explicit aim of fostering peace and international understanding.



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**UWC PEARSON COLLEGE**  
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