

# Pearson *times*

Newsletter of Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific

## An Interview with Andrew Spray

By Jean-Claude, PC 33 Cameroon

I had the wonderful opportunity to sit down with Andrew Spray, Mathematics teacher and Universities Counsellor at Pearson College. Andrew joined the College in 1975, just one year after the formation of the College. Here is our conversation:

**J-C: Who is Andrew Spray?**

**AS:** I am a person who enjoys Mathematics and Physics, as well as sports in general with a strong passion for rugby. I enjoy working with students and helping in any way I possibly can.

**J-C: What initially appealed to you about the United World Colleges (UWC) when you began teaching at Pearson College?**

**AS:** I first learned about the UWC through a classmate at Oxford University who was one of the first graduates of UWC College of the Atlantic. I believe in the international goals of the UWCs and the challenging activities offered by the College. In addition I enjoy teaching students who are interested in learning.

**J-C: What were your first impressions of the campus 33 years ago?**

**AS:** When I started in September 1975, I was a bit intimidated. I was freshly hired and the PC 1 students and the teachers had firmly established ownership of the place. The students were really talented and I wondered if I could meet their expectations in terms of teaching and activities. During my first year I was involved with the



*"I enjoy working with students and helping in any way I possibly can."*

Andrew Spray, on his career of over three decades at Pearson College

construction of the basketball court and arranged soccer games with the surrounding community.

**J-C: What challenges have you faced as a teacher?**

**AS:** The diverse backgrounds, education levels and languages of the student body provide a unique challenge for teaching Mathematics

or any subject for that matter.

**J-C: Do you believe UWC goals are respected and followed on campus?**

**AS:** Yes. Each year we have students from approximately 100 countries living together, sharing and learning from each other.

Jean-Claude attended Pearson College on endowed scholarships from Nabisco Brands Ltd., Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Government of Canada.



**Editor's note:** After teaching and mentoring students at Pearson College for 33 years, Andrew retired from teaching this past May, but will continue assisting the College with both advising current students on further education and helping the Development and External Relations Department on alumni matters.

## A dream for a New UN Model

By Utkarsh, PC 34 India

During a nice evening chat a while ago, a dear friend made a fantastic proposition and it has stuck in my mind since then and I decided I must share it with all.

Imagine many of us Pearson College students becoming leaders in our home countries in the future and having our 30 year reunion in the United Nations General Assembly as heads of state from across the globe.

Imagine seeing all the friends with whom you once shared classes and activities now in a position to engage in productive talks.

What a beautiful place the

world would be and what amazing levels of understanding we would display. I was mesmerized by the idea. Such a thing would truly create change; such a thing one day could finally save the world.

As I pursued this dream, I started to believe in the notion. I felt that one day the world could finally come together as one, if not in the UN General Assembly, then on a smaller scale in communities and countries. That one day we would see borders melting away and we would learn more tolerance.

So if people ask what I have learned at a United World College, I will tell them this.

I have learned to respect and be respected.



That I see hope in humanity and that despite all our differences, our languages, our strengths, our weaknesses, we are all human and that's what brings us together.

That this world will one day be a better place.

Utkarsh is attending the College on the Theodore Xanthaky and Dorothy Osborne Xanthaky Endowed Scholarship and the United World Colleges International of Canada Inc. Scholarship.



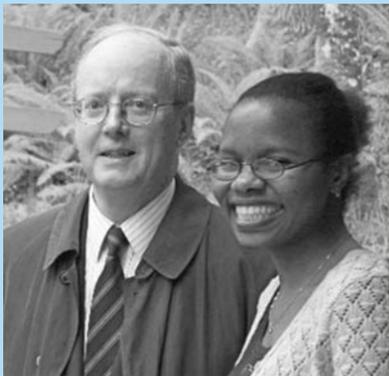
The United World Colleges makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. [United World College Mission]



## Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award

**J**ohn Nsabimana, PC 31 Rwanda has been a very active with UNICEF British Columbia this year as Regional Youth Ambassador and recently received the UNICEF Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award. John was born in Kigali, Rwanda and spent 11 years in a refugee camp in Uganda. He arrived in Canada in 2004 to attend Pearson College and is now studying in the Child and Youth Care Program at the University of Victoria. John started volunteering in the camp in Uganda, where he acted as a sports coach and translator with "Right to Play". John is an active member of the regional UNICEF Speakers' Bureau and has made presentations to many schools and local community groups.

John attended Pearson College on the Kwok-Leung Li Endowed Scholarship and Mary Margaret Young Scholarship.



Norman Webster of the Webster Foundation with the R. Howard Webster Memorial Scholarship recipient, Tatenda, PC 33 Zimbabwe during a campus visit last spring.

"Receiving a full scholarship to Pearson College two years ago changed my life and has given me the opportunity to study at a university abroad. This was a fantasy my friends and I always dreamed about. It is thanks to Mr. Webster and the Webster Foundation that I am now able to follow my passion for Biology at Clark University. Too bad he can't see my heart because it's full of feelings of immense gratitude that my limited vocabulary can't express."

## Netherlands to host new UWC college

**E**arlier this year the United World College (UWC) International Board approved a new college in the Netherlands. UWC Maastricht, the UWC's 13th college will embrace the core United World College values as well as break new educational ground. The college will open temporary premises in August 2009 and have a fully operational campus by 2011-2012.

Maastricht enjoys an international atmosphere due to close proximity to Aachen in Germany and Liège in Belgium. International students currently make up almost one third of the enrolment at the local university. As a compact city with a vibrant local culture, it will be able to host the College within the concept of an 'urban campus'. "We are so delighted," says Jaap

Mos of the Project Team UWC Maastricht. He believes that "the UWC is in many ways the model for what education in general, and international education in particular, should be". Jan Petit, an Atlantic College graduate, also on the Project Team says, "The UWC experience is not just about academics and internationalism; it also instills the importance of serving society and fighting for a more equal world. My conviction is that a UWC experience is even more relevant today than in the 1970s."

The latest college will break new educational ground in terms of national government recognition of the UWC movement and also through exploiting the 'outreach' potential of the UWC concept. The Government of Netherlands will be introducing compulsory commu-

*"the UWC is in many ways the model for what education in general, and international education in particular, should be"*

nity service in all high schools next year and expects UWC Maastricht to serve as a model for other educational establishments. The College will be integrated with two other international schools on one campus, accepting students aged between two and 18 years. National Committees around the globe will select 200 boarding students to attend on scholarships.

## 200 students representing 100 countries

**A** new school year has just begun! In early September, 200 students from 100 countries arrived on campus and began settling in for a challenging and rewarding year on the shores of Pedder Bay.

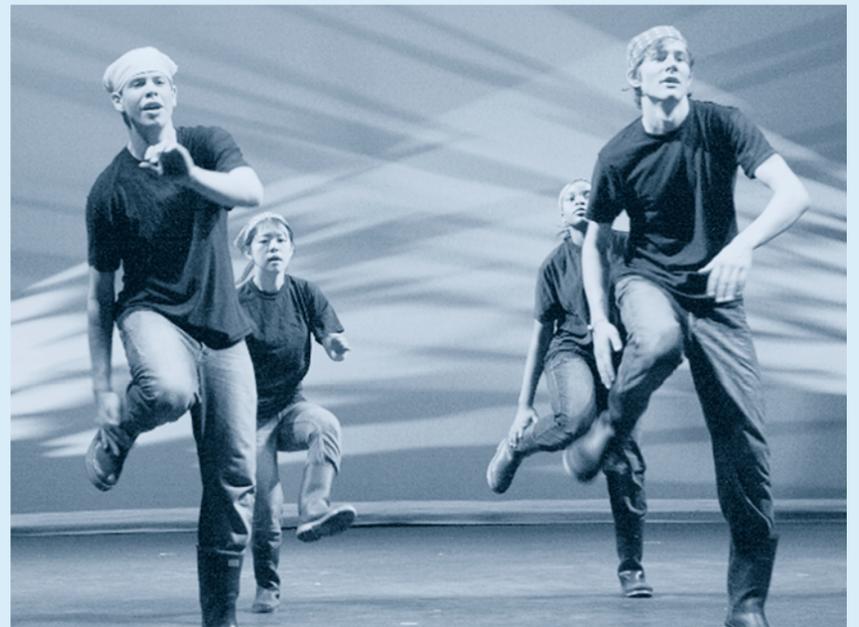
In addition to the 50 youth representing all of Canada's provinces and territories, students from areas of continuing or recent conflict such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Croatia and Serbia are amongst those attending the College. As well this year 20 students from 18 countries in Africa are enrolled in the College on full scholarship.

*Pearson College should "be open to all students with ability, regardless of financial means, religious belief or race."* Lester B. Pearson

Lester B. Pearson felt strongly that Pearson College should "be open to all students with ability, regardless of financial means, religious belief or race." As a result, since its inception in 1974, students of potential have been

selected by National Selection Committees in their home countries and all students attend the College on full scholarship.

To support secure and permanent scholarship funding for deserving young students please visit [www.pearsoncollege.ca](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca).



## One World continues to delight audiences

**I**n addition to the wildly popular shows each spring at Victoria's Royal Theatre, the students performed to a full house in Vancouver as well in April.

The Vancouver audience had the first opportunity in many years to enjoy the talents of Pearson College students. This successful initiative was led by Board Chair Diana Maughan and directed by Theatre teacher Libby Mason.



The popular evening of International Music and Dance performed by the students of Pearson College

**Save this date!**  
Saturday, March 7, 2009  
Two shows only!  
2 pm and 8pm  
Royal Theatre, Victoria, BC

## Graduates in Medicine



**Evan Adams**

PC 9 Canada

Evan Adams, of the Sliammon First Nation (Powell River, BC, Canada), is a physician and an accomplished actor whose numerous performances include a starring role in the Emmy Award-winning, TV movie, *LOST IN THE BARRENS*, and, most memorably, in the role of Thomas Builds-The-Fire in the Miramax feature *SMOKE SIGNALS*, for which he won a number of awards including an Independent Spirit Award for Performance. In addition to his career in the arts, Evan completed his MD at the University of Calgary and his Aboriginal Family Practice residency as Chief Resident at St Paul's Hospital / University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He is currently Director of the Division of Aboriginal People's Health in the UBC Department of Family Practice.

In November 2006, Evan was appointed the first-ever Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, British Columbia Ministry of Health. In this role he has responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the health of Aboriginal people in British Columbia and tracking progress against performance measures in the First Nations Health Plan.

*"I learned that I could affect change and, I learned to really appreciate the place that I come from."*

Evan feels the arts program and the everyday dynamics at Pearson College helped him gain confidence in himself and in his history as a First Nations person. "I learned that I could affect change and, oddly enough, I learned to really appreciate the place that I come from." He continues to maintain close ties with his Coast Salish roots.

Evan attended the College on scholarship support provided by Pearson College donors.



**Paula Villela Nunes**

PC 18 Brazil

"My studies at Pearson College were a very important life experience. Those years opened my views of the world and strengthened my belief in cooperative work and environmental care," Paula reflects. She feels the International Baccalaureate (IB) program gave her a strong academic background for active and critical study. "I had to balance a strong curriculum for future medical school with my interests in Ukrainian Dance, diving and community service as well as campus maintenance and many cultural events. Being far from home and having to share my room with three colleagues from different continents also increased my sense of responsibility and respect for others. I found that our friendships broke down personal barriers and prejudice and when I returned to Brazil I shared my experiences with my family and friends." Paula studied Medicine in university and volunteered with the UWC National Committee and helped select students for the UWC.

Currently Paula works as a Psychiatrist and divides her work between private practice, research and volunteer work in a public hospital, Psychiatry Institute, University of Sao Paulo. Paula is married and says, "as a result of a happy relationship we are planning to have children and be able to show them all the beauty of the possibility of making the world a better place."

Paula attended Pearson College on the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Scholarship.

*"My studies at Pearson College... opened my views of the world and strengthened my belief in cooperative work and environmental care."*



**Hans Ivar Hanevik**

PC 22 Norway

Hans began studying medicine at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim right after his years at Pearson College. Two years later he travelled to Argentina to study Spanish and education.

"I had a great year! Gabriel, my roommate at the College, and his family invited me to live in their home and I was also lucky to meet my future wife Laura during my stay," Hans recalls. He returned to Trondheim to resume studying medicine and after graduating in 2004 spent two more years

serving as an intern. Next as a conscientious objector, Hans did one year of community service in a hospital instead of his mandatory military service.

"In 2007 I finally got my first real job as a doctor!" Hans states. "I now work at Telemark Hospital and divide my time between our department of gynecology and obstetrics, our fertility clinic and research. My main field of interest is reproductive medicine and my research is focused on genetic aspects of infertility and fertility treatment."

Hans feels his experience at Pearson College influences many aspects of his professional life such as his communications with patients from different walks of life, the scientific rigor in his research and being able to combine a heavy work-load with an active social life.

Hans lives in Telemark with Laura and 6 month old son Oliver.

Hans studied at the College on scholarship support provided by Pearson College donors.



## ways to give

Each year, 200 promising young students from around the world are awarded a full scholarship to Pearson College...

...and each one can change the world. To offer this full scholarship to every student we need your support. There are ways to give now, and ways to plan for giving in the future.

To best consider your personal situation and discuss ways to give to Pearson College, please call us for more information – 250.391.2485 or email us at:

[development@pearsoncollege.ca](mailto:development@pearsoncollege.ca)

or visit our website today at:

[www.pearsoncollege.ca](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca)

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- Donations of Real Estate

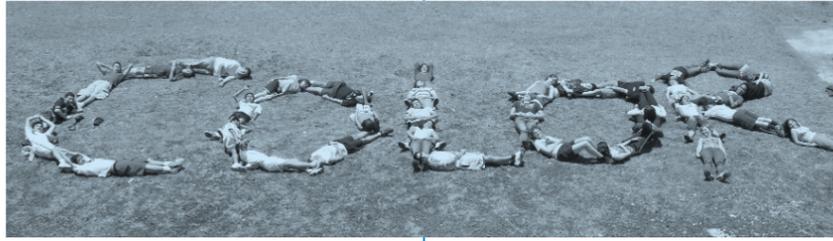


## Students create Leadership Forum in Guatemala

by Marcial Díaz, PC 32/33 Guatemala

After my first year at Pearson College, I felt that I had received so much and I hadn't really given back anything. Then at a United World College (UWC) reunion in Guatemala, Rudy Herrera, Red Cross Nordic UWC '06 and I discussed our respective experiences at the Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) in the Netherlands and Pearson Seminar on Youth Leadership (PSYL) and we decided to develop a similar program in Guatemala, a country divided for a very long time. That's how the idea of COLOR, a leadership forum was born. Since that conversation, COLOR has come a long way with much support from the Guatemala National Committee and Secretary Carlos Paniagua, PC 30 Guatemala, UWC grads and Guatemalan youth.

COLOR 2008 Leadership Forum took place in Chimaltenango, Guatemala this past July and brought together participants from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama and various regions from the host country



Guatemala. Pearson College students Ben Howells, PC 34 and Sarah Skinner, PC 33, both from Canada, as well as Juan Pablo Sarmiento Torres, PC 34 Colombia served as facilitators. Pearson College Economics teacher Samuel Pérez attended and assisted in the development of the program.

COLOR is designed to create an inclusive community where youth are able to explore issues without fear of being judged and are joined by others who believe in their capacities to do something to start changing their world. Although it is not possible to fund completely each person, participants were selected on the basis of merit and not their ability to pay, bringing together youth from diverse regions and ethnicities. COLOR was funded by different organisations that work with disadvantaged sectors in Guatemala such as youth, the Swiss UWC alumni network

and individual persons who believe in the project.

During the nine-day program, attendees discussed topics such as gender, distribution of wealth, multiculturalism and social justice and also gained the tools necessary to become effective leaders in their own communities. On the final day, participants presented an outline for projects they plan to develop for their communities. So far, 50 participants have taken part in the program and COLOR has many plans to continue growing in the next couple of years.

For more information and to support the project, please contact us at [color.gt@gmail.com](mailto:color.gt@gmail.com).

Marcial studied at the College on the H. F. Feaver Annual Scholarship, Kwok-Leung Li Endowed Scholarship and Canadian Pacific Limited Endowed Scholarship.



*May we never lose our faith in peace in the world or our resolve to do everything that can be done to convert it one day into reality"*

Lester B. Pearson

please visit our web site

[www.pearsoncollege.ca](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca)

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

are you moving?

Please send your new contact information to:

[update@pearsoncollege.ca](mailto:update@pearsoncollege.ca)

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## Warm friendships at Metchosin House

As part of the United World College program, all students attending the College take part in active community service projects. At the start of each academic year the students select a service activity for the upcoming year and then once a week have the opportunity to interact and make friends through programs such as Special Needs Dance, Special Needs Music and Metchosin House.

Twice a week after classes finish at 2:30, a group of students piles into a College van and heads to nearby Metchosin House, a program offered by the Metchosin Community Association. The students participate in a variety of activities including assisting as reading buddies and playing sports in after-school programs for local kids, visiting seniors in their homes and joining a group of senior residents at the Community



House to share cups of tea, stories, games, lots of laughs and just a few homemade cookies! "Over the year, warm friendships are forged and the students and program participants really look forward to their

time together each week," remarked Jane Hammond, volunteer member of the Community Association. Long time Metchosin resident, Mac Tipton enjoys the visits with students in his home. "I have been fortunate to be involved with Pearson students since the College opened. It's a real pleasure to learn about their home countries and their ambitions and to introduce them to a bit of life in Canada," he said. He is looking forward to re-establishing ties with student friends from last year and meeting some of the new first year students this fall.



PEARSON COLLEGE



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