

May 16, 2007

Dear Ms. Robertsdottir-Lewis:

It is my pleasure to send you greetings from Pearson College where I am enjoying my first spring on campus as the new Director. The hummingbirds are whirring wildly from one red currant flower to the next while the students settle down for their exams. My family and I extend our thanks to the many individuals who have given us such warm welcome and support. It has also been my pleasure to meet many graduates and other supporters of the College on campus, across North America and England since we arrived in August.

This school year has been an eventful one, ranging from a visit by the Prime Minister and launch of the Tidal Generation project off Race Rocks in January, to One World in March and the world premier of the Tony Hauser photo exhibit on campus in April. Less public events such as the walk to nearby Taylor Beach by the community at dawn of the first day of spring and our snowstorm in November were magical moments that brought everyone on campus together. These will be lifelong memories for our students and for me and my family.

Soon, our students will be leaving for all parts of the world. For those who are graduating, we like to think that this is not an ending. It is a beginning for each one to carry on the United World College movement to "make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures, for peace and a sustainable future." There is no better place to incubate such ideals and there is no better time than now for these Pearson Scholars to begin their work.

You the readers of *Pearson Times* like our students, are diverse. We send this update on life at the college because you are graduates, parents of graduates around the world, host families, other individuals, and organizations that have supported the college since its opening in 1973. We also wish to communicate with new friends of Pearson College who have recently visited our campus or attended events such as One World in Victoria.

I like to believe that what brings us together is something more important and larger than any one of us as an individual. We make no apologies for being idealistic and we believe that investing in the education of young people with exceptional promise is the best way to change the world.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to Lester B. Pearson. In recognition, we are offering several scholarships for the 2007-08 school year to students who are living in countries at war or in post-conflict areas of the world. We want the next generation of leaders in these countries to learn different approaches to resolving conflict. As well, we will continue to reach deeply into other countries and other parts of the world to provide access to students regardless of their financial means, one of the many benefits of our full scholarship policy.

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Kip, one of our second year students, is a good example of how our global community connects at many levels. Kip comes from a small rural village several hours by bus from Nairobi. Two years ago his mother sent him to a local shop to buy washing soap for the family. This soap is cut from a large slab and wrapped in newspaper. Walking home from the shop, Kip spotted an announcement inviting students to apply to the United World Colleges on the newspaper wrapping the soap. When he got home, he convinced his family to let him apply. He did so and was invited to an interview in Nairobi. With no ability to pay for the trip to Nairobi, his village raised funds for Kip to travel there.

It was the first time in his life Kip had left his village and his seven brothers and four sisters. He was successful at the interview and arrived at Pearson with huge ambition and little in terms of material possessions. Indeed, even though he loves running, his first pair of running shoes were a gift from the college. Kip has thrived here and a few weeks ago he was offered a full scholarship to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. There he will take the next step towards his goal of becoming a medical doctor. He leaves us with more than just a scholarship. Like his classmates, Kip now has a world full of friends. The lives of students who come to Pearson are not touched lightly. They are transformed forever.

Stories like Kip's happen solely through the financial support we receive from people like you who believe in our mission. We thank you for the many ways in which you have continued to support Pearson College. If you are newly acquainted to Pearson College, we ask that you become engaged with us in some meaningful way. You never know what it might bring, who you may meet or the change it will make in the world we share.

As the new Director of Pearson College, I welcome your thoughts and comments on the College and how you can assist us in continuing our full scholarship policy. Together we honour the great legacy of Lester Pearson as lived today by people like Kip, our other 199 students and over 3200 graduates around the world.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

David B. Hawley
College Director
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