

UWC Pearson College of the Pacific
40th Anniversary Founders' Day Celebration

The UWC Movement: Diversity with Principles

Remarks by Sir John Daniel, O.C.
Chair, UWC International Board

Good afternoon to you all: Founders, Chair Tony Macoun, Members of the Board of Directors, President Désirée McGraw, Professor Bothwell, Alumni, College Staff, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be with you at Pearson College for this celebration of your 40th anniversary for several reasons.

First, I live in Vancouver so I think of Pearson College, which was the second college in the movement, as my local UWC. I have visited this College more frequently than any other. Indeed, my first contact with UWC came when Tony Macoun invited me here in the mid-1980s. My younger daughter, Catherine, was with me and Tony sent her off with some pupils to Race Rocks while I was on campus. She returned starry-eyed saying, 'Daddy, I must go to one of these places!' She duly set off to UWC USA the following year. Some while later a fellow pupil at UWC USA, Ian Chisholm, married my other daughter, Anne-Marie. He served on your Pearson Board until recently so I have UWC in the family.

Second, I am thrilled to be here as your new President, Désirée McGraw, takes office. I met her soon after her appointment and congratulate you on a brilliant choice. She will be a terrific asset to the College and the wider UWC movement.

Third, since assuming my *pro bono* role as Chair of the UWC International Board nearly three years ago, I have sought opportunities to visit all 15 institutions in our UWC network. I completed that tour two weeks ago by joining UWC Waterford Kamhlaba in Swaziland for Africa Week. Waterford joined UWC as the sixth institution in the system in 1981 but its foundation goes back to 1963, just one year after Atlantic College. For 52 years Waterford has been a beacon in the struggle for racial equality in Southern Africa.

Fourth, the new Executive Director of the UWC International Office, Jens Waltermann, is a Pearson alumnus. Jens took on the job last month with unique experience of the UWC movement. As well as being one of your alumni he chaired Germany's UWC National Committee for a number of years and was the co-founder of UWC Robert Bosch College in Freiburg, one of two new UWCs that opened last year. We expect great things of his leadership of UWC International.

I have titled these remarks *The UWC Movement: Diversity with Principles*. I shall touch on key principles underpinning pupil diversity and institutional diversity.

In our early days pupil diversity was judged by the variety of their passports. The early 20th century saw wars between states and UWC aimed to get children from different countries to live

and work together. Today's conflicts are more often within states than between them. In response, Pearson helped to initiate the 'tension twins' programme. This brings to the same UWC pupils from the same country who, because of ethnicity, religion, language or disparity of wealth, would never meet each other at home. We had 43 tension twins in the UWC system last year and it's an odd number because Iraq sent a tension triplet of Kurd, Shiite and Sunni. Our 140 National Committees are recruiting pupils on the principle that UWC should represent the most salient dimensions of diversity in our troubled world.

What about institutional diversity? With the imminent opening of UWC Changshu in China we shall have 15 institutions. Most are two-year colleges like Pearson, but we now have three full schools, Maastricht, Singapore and Waterford, where the younger grades are just as proud of being UWC pupils as those in the IB Diploma. The key unifying principle in this diversity should be for all new pupils coming into the IB Diploma programme from outside to go through similar National Committee selection processes. Only after they have been judged suitable on these criteria should we look at what level of scholarship support, from zero to 100%, is appropriate for each pupil.

I end with some splendid news. It was my great pleasure, at the openings of our two new colleges in Germany and Armenia last year, to discuss the development of the UWC movement with our International Patrons, Shelby and Gale Davis. They have a tremendous commitment to our work. I am thrilled to announce today that Shelby and Gale Davis have committed a new USD \$15 million gift to the UWC movement – one million dollars for each institution. The new programme, called the Davis-UWC IMPACT programme, will match gifts made by alumni, parents and friends on a dollar-for-dollar basis. In other words, for every dollar that Pearson College can raise there will be a matching dollar from this new Davis fund. The Davis family intends the programme to be flexible and to give the institutions plenty of time to canvass their supporters for the matching funds.

I am sure that Shelby and Gale Davis' tremendous generosity will give a terrific boost to alumni giving. My many years of service as a university president in Canada and the UK taught me the power of matching gifts. They create a wonderful incentive for alumni, in particular, to give to their former institutions. I expect that this programme will stimulate many UWC alumni to give for the first time.

The Davis-UWC IMPACT programme is live as from this moment and I hope that it will further energise your vigorous Pearson College alumni community. Where better to start the ball rolling than at this 40th anniversary Founders' Day celebration? Can Pearson be the first of the UWC institutions to turn one million dollars into two million dollars? I leave you with that challenge!

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