



Dear Alumni,

A great deal is happening across the Pearson College Alumni Association, and we're excited to share the latest developments with our global alumni community.

Over the past several months, the PCAA Council has continued building the foundations for an increasingly active, connected, and engaged alumni association by advancing long-term initiatives, strengthening our organization, connecting and aligning with Pearson College, and creating new opportunities for Pearson alumni around the world to connect with one another and with the College.

We would love for more alumni to become part of what we're building. As the PCAA continues to grow, we are opening up new opportunities for alumni who would like to volunteer and contribute their talents, including helping with social media and communications, fundraising and development, events and gatherings, alumni engagement, and other initiatives. Whether you have a few hours to contribute, an idea you would like to champion, or simply want to become more involved, we would love to hear from you.

Our strength as an alumni community comes from the extraordinary people, experiences, perspectives, and relationships that span generations of students at Pearson College.

By bringing more of that community together, we have an opportunity to build something that no individual alum or cohort could create alone.

As we look ahead, we also want to recognize alumni who have contributed their time and leadership to the PCAA. Daniel Larocque, Year 7, is stepping down after six years as a PCAA Year Rep, during which he helped promote the PCAA and keep alumni informed about its development. Thank you, Daniel, for your dedication and contributions since the reestablishment of the PCAA. On that note, we're thrilled to welcome Kirsten Kane, Year 7, who is stepping up as PCAA Year Rep for Year 7.

We also want to recognize Stefan Harpe, Year 2, who, together with Anselme Hategekimana, Director of Finance, IT, and Houseparent at Pearson College, has prepared a great update on the Pearson College Endowment, which you can read below.



Picture of the welcome sign at Pearson College, taken at this summer's 40-year reunion

Pearson College Updates – Status of the College Endowment

Drafted by Stefan Harpe, Year 2, with assistance from Pearson College's Anselme Hategekimana

Last fall's newsletter, [available here](#), included a short note on the College's financial situation, clarifying how the operating budget is usually covered by revenues, including fundraising, fees, and summer events, and the stipulated draw from the endowment.

As you probably know, Pearson College's financial statements are prepared under 'charitable accounting' principles, and also consolidate the endowment and operating accounts, which makes the numbers more difficult to interpret.

That being said, this note will focus on the endowment itself.

Endowment History

Back in 2014, the endowment, then worth approximately \$42 million, was transferred from the College Foundation, run by Jim Coutts, back to Pearson College, with the idea that the endowment would grow with donations and investment returns while providing limited funds to the College each year to support running costs.

Since the endowment came back under College oversight, the policy has been to limit annual transfers to the College to 4% of Endowment value for operations, and 0.5% for capital. This enables the College to rely on a stable source of funding, roughly \$2 million annually. The expectation is that investment returns on the endowment will exceed 4.5% per annum, and the remaining net return will enable the endowment to grow.

The size of the endowment rose to approximately \$57 million in June of 2025 after the annual College draw and fluctuating market returns. Conversely, in earlier years when the endowment portfolio return was negative or insufficient, the College transfer reduced the endowment capital.

2025 Pearson College Finances – Fiscal Year End June 30	
Category	Amount (\$Million CAD)
Fundraising	1.7
UWC National Committees & Family	5.8
Grants & US Foundation	1.3
Total Operating Revenue	11.5
Curriculum & Salaries	5.3
Boarding	2.3
Repairs & Maintenance	1.4
Administrative Costs	2.2
Advancement	1.1
Total Expenses	14
Operating Deficit	(2.5)
Endowment Draw	2.3
Net Result	(0.2)

Highlighted above are the key revenue and expense items, and how the endowment draw contributes to the College's finances. The net result over the past years has generally been close to break-even, and the small loss in 2025 was similar to previous years and resulted from some unexpected cost increases.

In 2025, the Endowment generated \$1.7 million in returns and \$5.9 million in capital gains, for a total return of \$7.6 million. This illustrates that, under normal market conditions, the current policy permits both a stable College transfer and the growth of endowment capital.

Oversight and Management

The endowment is overseen by the Investment Committee of the Pearson College Board of Directors, chaired by Yazann Romahi, Year 19, who regularly review policy and performance with an external asset manager.

The current Endowment Fund managers are Jarislowsky Fraser and Mawer Investment Management, both reputable investment firms in the Canadian financial sector.

Fundraising

Last year, the College raised roughly \$1 million to add to the endowment. As shown above, that money is invested to generate income that then supports the College. The capital itself is intended to remain with the endowment.

The major fundraising challenge remains securing the annual scholarship funding of roughly \$3 million, which supplements the many UWC National Committees' contributions and Family fees of approximately \$5.5 million.

Finally, as this note is based on the financial statements ended June 2025, the above is already a year old. When the statements for 2026 are made available, the PCAA will be able to provide an update should alums be interested.

For further detail, the full Financial Statements are available at

https://view.publitas.com/pearson-college-uwg/8_2-2025_financial-statements_final-1/page/1

Pearson College Reunions

There is nothing like the Pearson College campus, and reunions remain a powerful homecoming as we walk the trails of our youth. Reconnecting with the place and people inevitably leads to recollections and reflections of a blissful time that continues to shape us today.

The 10-Year reunion for Years 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44 took place from August 4th to August 7th, where alumni once again met on campus to share in their journeys since leaving the College.



A shared meal on the QOL_EW_house lawn during the 10-year reunion

The 40-Year reunion for Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 also took place from August 9th to 13th. Alumni who joined had a great time seeing their friends again and reliving the magic of the campus they left so many years ago.



A family picture of Pearson alumni at the 40-year reunion

Memorial Star at 40-Year Reunion

Roger Dunfee, Year 12, wrote the following as part of the 40-year reunion memorial, and is provided here in an acknowledgement of the lives now passed that touched ours, whether friends, family, or fellow alumni.

A Star Above, A Tree Below: Pearson College UWC Honours Its Lost Alumni

On August 10th, at our 40-year reunion, I had the privilege of helping steer a memorial for the alumni and faculty we have lost. As evening settled over Pedder Bay, we gathered to plant a Garry oak, a tree with deep roots in Vancouver Island ecosystems and a species historically used in canoe making. That connection was intentional; it echoed the star we would dedicate later that night in Orion, known in Coast Salish star knowledge as The Canoe.

Alumna Heidi Koschzeck, Year 13, opened with a prayer that grounded the moment in reverence and connection, and Year representatives then read aloud the names of thirty-one alumni we have lost from years 8 to 14, each one carried into the evening air with affection and gratitude. Douglas Millar, Year 12, accompanied the ceremony with an a cappella rendition of the spiritual *Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name*, a moving blend of sorrow and celebration.

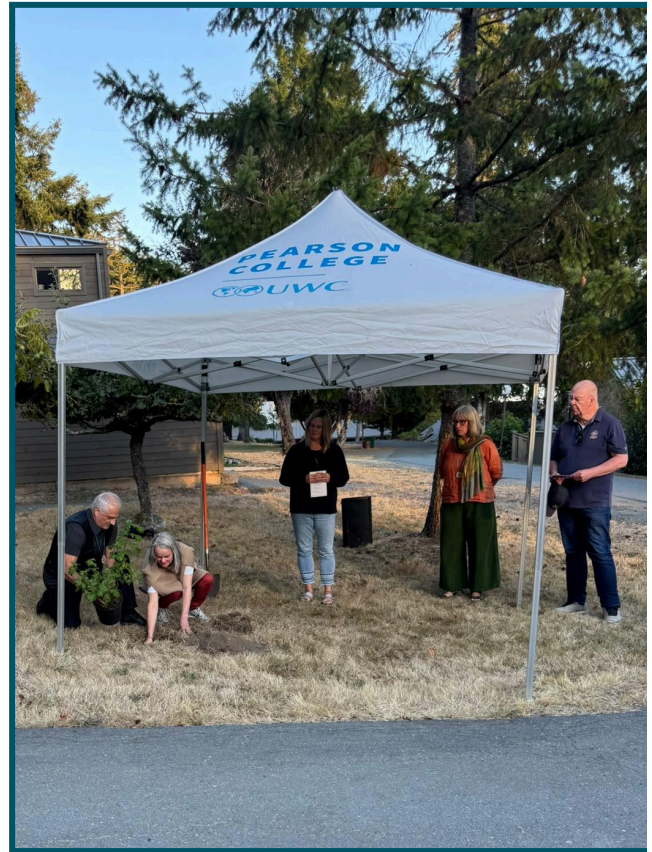
Before the Garry oak was placed in the earth, the memorial program listing the names of all our lost alumni, faculty, staff, and community members was laid into the ground as a first gesture of remembrance. Liz Stannard and I, both Year 12 members of the planning committee, then planted the tree with our bare hands. Paul Laurence Dunbar's poem *The Seedling* followed, a fitting reflection on growth and endurance.

As twilight deepened, we hiked behind Max Bell Hall to gather inside the Godin-Newton Observatory to dedicate a memorial star, now officially named the Pearson United World College Memorial Star, in the constellation Orion. The observatory, home to a 25-inch Newtonian reflector telescope, grew out of the collaboration between astrophotographer Jack Newton (1942-2025) and retired physics professor Jean Godin, whose influence on generations of Pearson students remains profound. Here, the reading of names expanded to include lost faculty, administrators, and staff. The final name that was read was Jean Godin; he had passed away just days before the reunion, mere months after Jack Newton. Hearing his name spoken in the observatory he helped build, with alumni gathered around the telescope he championed, cast a quiet stillness over the room.

To mark the dedication, we played Metallica's instrumental *Orion*, released forty years ago. As the music played, alumni looked toward the eastern sky, where Orion would rise before dawn.

What began as an idea months earlier became a shared act of remembrance, honouring all we have lost and the enduring spirit of Pearson itself. The Garry oak has since been moved to a place between the swimming pool and the dining hall, where other Garry oaks can be found. It will grow on the land we once learned from. As the memorial star shines above the campus for generations, the names spoken aloud will remain part of our story. Helping guide this memorial was one of the great privileges of my Pearson life, and witnessing the community embrace it with such tenderness affirmed what we have always known:

Pearson's strength lies not only in its mission, but in the people who carry it forward, together.



Liz Stannard and Roger Dunfee, Year 12, plant a commemorative Garry oak near STOKI, house during the 40-Year reunion.

The Pearson United World College Memorial Star can be found in the constellation Orion (Orion)

Right ascension: $6^{\circ} 8' 56.64''$

Declination: 12.5378°

Magnitude: 13.18 mag

Catalog number: 89953586 (UCAC3 catalog)

It is recorded in the Staracle International Star Directory. www.staracle.com/10089953586

Remembering Jean Godin

The Pearson alumni community mourns the loss of Jean Godin, a beloved educator, mentor, and longtime member of the Pearson College community, where he taught physics and shared his extraordinary passion for astronomy with generations of students.

A scientist and educator whose teaching career spanned more than 50 years, Jean spent much of his professional life within the United World College movement, particularly at Pearson College.

At Pearson, he also realized a personal dream through the Godin-Newton Observatory, where for many years he introduced students to galaxies, stars, and the wonders of the Universe, sharing not only his knowledge, but also the sense of curiosity, awe, and exploration that made learning with him so memorable. His warmth, intellectual curiosity, and gift for drawing students into learning left an enduring impact on the Pearson community.

We share some words of remembrance from Pearson alumni and invite you to share your own memories and photos of Jean with us for our tribute post, and on Jean's Memorial Page.

Jerry Kalarickal

Jean was a wonderful person whose kindness and compassion touched so many. Rest in peace, dear Jean.

Mohini Prasad

I have such beautiful memories of him. Indeed a man with such a kind heart. I will never forget - a few months after we had arrived at Pearson, I had lost my grandmother, which had impacted me. I couldn't afford to travel back home to be with my family, but Jean Godin arranged for me to travel home during the first year break. I so badly needed it to grieve with my family, and to date, whenever I remember this, my heart and soul fill with gratitude.

Christina Perry

Jean and Helene welcomed me into their family and let me stay with them and Nat after our graduation. I am forever grateful.

Camille Simpkins

I remember when he had to step in as acting director in our second year. He was gentle and thoughtful and kind. May his soul rest in peace.

Analisa Leonor Balares

I had been passionate about the cosmos since I was a child, so I feel so blessed to have been inspired by and to have learned from Jean Godin, who fueled and informed that deep interest even more.

With thanks to Jean, we saw galaxies and star clusters up close for the first time: the Andromeda Galaxy (Messier 31), the Pleiades (Messier 45), and so many more. In his astronomy group, we spent evenings probing and exploring the mysteries of the Universe. And with thanks to Jean's encouragement, I sustained my interest in all things astronomy and astrophysics to this day — reflected in my years of collaboration with NASA and my new book on space exploration.

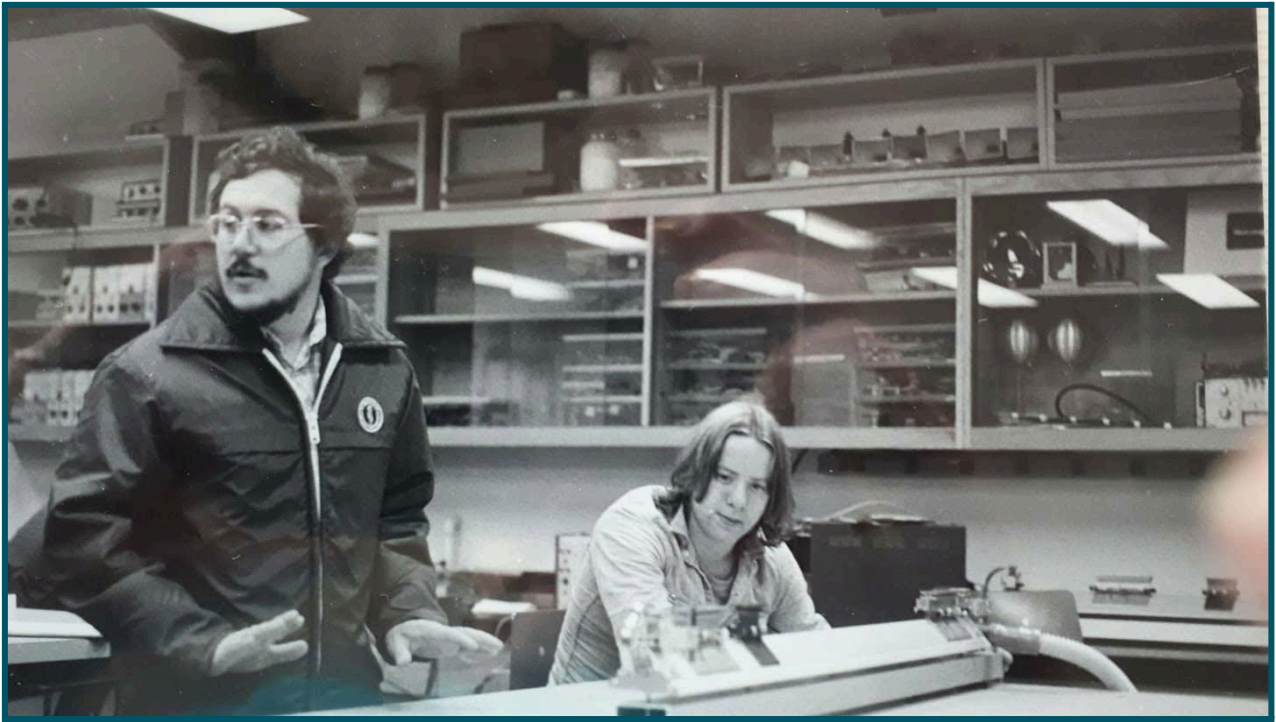
It is heartbreaking that our beloved teacher, mentor, and House Fellow Jean Godin has left the Earth – but he has also now become one with the Universe and all of Creation. We will find him when we look up to the stars, and when we peek into the hearts of the galaxies we once looked at together with him.

To all who have ever been blessed with knowing and learning from Jean, in all his warmth, brilliance, and passion for the cosmos and exploration, know that you will always find him in your heart and in your fondest memories of clear, starry nights, gazing up to the heavens in Jean's astronomy group.

With gratitude and deepest condolences to Helene Godin, Jean's amazing partner in creation, and to their beautiful family, for sharing him with us and making all this magic possible.

To share your own memories and photos of and with Jean, we invite you to email us (to be included in our social media Tribute post), and to visit and contribute on Jean's Dignity Memorial page:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/victoria-bc/jean-godin-12995696>



Picture of Jean Godin over the years, shared by alumni in commemoration of the legacy he leaves behind.

T-shirt Campaign

As an update on the T-shirt campaign for our newest alums, Year 51, the shirts were delivered to campus in May, just in time for students to celebrate their transition to alumni! Thanks to alumni who donated toward the purchase of shirts, we raised enough to cover the campaign's costs and provide approximately a year of funding for the PCAA. We're very happy to have made it work while giving something back to the newest members of our alumni community.

We hope to continue this annual tradition, with the PCAA welcoming the Year 52 cohort into the alumni community with shirts of their own that represent their experience and time at Pearson College.

As we continue building connections with alumni, both new and old, we're looking for more ways to bring the Pearson community together and support the PCAA's work.

UWC National Committee of Canada Mentorship Programme

The UWC National Committee of Canada is looking for mentors to support current and future Canadian UWC students.

Mentors provide important support to students during their UWC experience, guiding them throughout their studies with conversations and insights.

Key to mentorship is the desire to build a genuine connection and stay in touch as mentees grow through their UWC experience.

Mentors can expect to be matched with one or two incoming Canadian students who will likely be heading to Pearson College, and it involves a time commitment of about one hour per month to meet with mentees.

The National Committee of Canada will be there to support mentors with any questions, training, or support needed along the way.

Interested alumni can provide their contact information at <https://form-can.keela.co/mentorship-recruitment> to get started in supporting and mentoring current and future UWC students.

For any questions or to request more information, please reach out to info@ca.uwc.org

UWC Day Get-Together

UWC Day is September 21, 2026! This year, the Canadian National Committee is bringing the UWC community together across Canada to celebrate Action for Peace, Planet, and People.

Join a UWC Day Event across Canada to connect with fellow members of the UWC community and celebrate UWC together! Check out the events happening across Canada:

Ottawa

Saturday, September 19th

4 pm - 6:30 pm EDT

@ Beyond the Pale, 250 City Centre Ave, Ottawa, ON K1R 6K7

Toronto

Sunday September 20th

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm EDT

@ Toronto Public Library Northern District Branch, 40 Orchard View Blvd, Toronto, ON M4R 1B9

Montreal

Monday, September 21st

7 pm EDT

@ McKibbins Irish Pub, 3515 Boul. Saint-Laurent, Montréal, QC H2X 2T6

Calgary

Tuesday, September 22nd

6pm MDT

@ Two House Brewing Taproom + Pizza, 1901 10 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T3C 0K3

Charlottetown

Wednesday, September 23rd

5 pm - 7 pm ADT

@ Hopyard, 151 Kent St, Charlottetown, PE C1A 1N5

2026 PCAA Annual General Meeting

On behalf of the Pearson College Alumni Association, we're delighted to invite alumni to the PCAA Annual General Meeting:

Pearson College Alumni Association – Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 17th

08:00 – Vancouver (PDT)

11:00 – New York / Toronto (EDT)

15:00 – UTC (Universal Time)

16:00 – London (BST)

17:00 – Paris / Berlin (CEST)

00:00 (Oct 18) – Tokyo (JST)

The following Zoom link will be used on the day of the AGM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961420970?pwd=sOnOYhdWPpVPQvQvIBHpCsSz87C5BJ.1>

This year, we hope to keep the AGM succinct, but we'll share more about the day's agenda in the coming weeks.

LinkedIn & Facebook

Stay connected with the Pearson College alumni community wherever you are in the world!

The PCAA's LinkedIn and Facebook communities are growing spaces for alumni news, professional and personal updates, opportunities, events, and ways to reconnect with fellow Pearson alumni across years and around the world.

Join us on the Pearson College Alumni Association LinkedIn Group, and follow, share, and invite your Pearson friends and classmates to become part of our growing digital alumni community.

[Pearson College Alumni Association LinkedIn](#)

You can also join the Pearson College Alumni Association Facebook Group! Please be sure to answer all of the membership questions when requesting to join.

[Pearson College Alumni Association Facebook](#)

Get Involved

The PCAA is working hard to strengthen connections, support alumni, and align our efforts with our shared values. Whether you want to stay in touch, contribute ideas, or help shape our direction, we'd love to hear from you.

At the moment, we're looking for folks to get involved and volunteer their time to help us deliver initiatives that alumni want to see.

With our annual general meeting upcoming, we'll be looking for alumni to join the Board of Directors and help shape the future of the PCAA.

We also continue to look for alumni to serve as Year Representatives. Year Reps are the backbone of the PCAA and act as dual ambassadors, representing the PCAA to their cohorts and representing their year to the PCAA!

We are looking for Year Reps who want to invest in and foster connections from the following cohorts:

Year 13 - Year 14 - Year 16 - Year 17 - Year 18 - Year 30 - Year 41 - Year 43 - Year 46 - Year 47 - Year 51

If you are in the year above or below these, please help us find a suitable Year Rep!

Finally, please get in touch to join the conversation and get involved!

Send us an email at pcaafb23@gmail.com

Or check out our website at pcalumni.org

Once again, thank you for being part of the Pearson College alumni community.

Sincerely,

PCAA Council

Marc Flynn, Year 4

Tim Sneek, Year 12

Analisa Balares, Year 19

Eric Tse, Year 22

Sarah Fletcher, Year 24

Édouard Bourcier, Year 39

Keegen Payne, Year 40

Natalia Cabrera-Rovetta, Year 40

Pearson College Alumni Association

pcalumni.org

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