The University of Victoria

50 YEARS

SPEED READING

WEBCAST

Watch Spring Convocation ceremonies online

Every year there are more people who want to attend UVic’s Spring Convocation than University Centre Farquhar Auditorium can accommodate. But you—and even friends and family members around the world—can still watch the ceremonies live online. All nine Spring Convocation ceremonies, June 10–14, will be webcast live at www.uvic.ca/convocation/ and podcasts of the honorary degree recipients’ addresses will be available as soon as possible after the ceremonies at http://communications.uvic.ca/podcasting/convocation/. Complete 2013 Spring Convocation schedule: www.uvic.ca/convocation/convocation/schedule/

2000-2013 Celebrating shared achievements

On Thursday, June 27, the entire university community is invited to a celebration of all that we have been able to accomplish together during David Turpin’s 13 years as president. The event is also an ice cream social, to mark the end of our 50th Anniversary. The event will run from 3:00—4:30 p.m. in the central courtyard of the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, with music organized by Ian McCouagal. RSVP (acceptances only) to www.uvic.ca/achievements by June 18. Event information 250-721-7634 or ceremony@uvic.ca

A message of thanks from David Turpin to the UVic community appears on page 3.

3,434

NEW DEGREE, CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS AWARDED DURING SPRING CONVOCATION

Newcomer to Victoria embraces Victorian literature

BY TARA SHARPE

Adam Taylor, who is receiving the Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal in June 2013 as the top master’s student for program achievement, is moving away from Victoria after convocation but is taking his passion for Victorian literature back home to Portland, Oregon. Taylor was drawn to UVic after attending Marylhurst University, a liberal arts institution 15 km south of Portland, due to how “remarkably affordable” it is to study in Canada. He was initially interested in UVic’s interdisciplinary program in cultural, social and political thought after focusing on philosophy as an undergraduate, and he found the strength of UVic’s theoretical program appealing.

A full-year teaching assistant position and supplemental fellowship “sealed the deal. I came here thinking I would work with theory at the graduate level but then found I needed a more tangible focus, [and this came from] Victorian serial periodicals.”

“The library has an amazing collection of Victorian periodicals and I was lucky enough to get in there [before it was transferred to University Archives and Special Collection]. So I could just go upstairs to the shelves, and browse.”

It captivated him, and he immersed himself in archival research, which brought him in touch with material traces of Victorian culture. He attained an 8.0 GPA in graduate work, and his original essay on Mary Elizabeth Braddon’s Aurora Floyd demonstrates how the 1860s marked a period of transition in stereotypes about

SEE TAYLOR P.6

Indigenous celebration leaves legacy for First Peoples House

The sound of drums reverberated in the centre of the UVic campus as four groups of Indigenous drummers and dancers approached Celebration Square (the quad) from the four corners of the campus. Representing the three distinct nations of Vancouver Island—Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth and Kwakwaka’wakw—as well as visitors to the territory, the ceremonial entrance provided a powerful opening to the Indigenous Circle Celebration and dedication of a special podium for First Peoples House on June 3, as part of Congress 2013.

Following a traditional paddle welcome song, which included dancers of all ages in button blankets, jingle dresses and other traditional regalia, Chief Andy Thomas (Lekwungen language. Members of UVic’s Elders’ Voices program also attended: Marie Cooper (Tsartlip); May Sam (Tsartlip); Skip Sam (Tsartlip); Samantha Sansregret (Métis); Ron George (Cowichan); George Cook (Nanaimo); Ruth Cook (Kawalkut); Vic Underwood (Tsawout); and Joyce Underwood (Tsawout).

President David Turpin welcomed everyone to UVic and to Congress, and explained the link between the podium and the totem pole that local carver Charles Elliott (OBC, OC) was commissioned to carve in 1990, the last time Congress (then called the Learneds) was held at UVic. “Today you will see that we will continue this fine tradition,” Turpin said. “I am very proud of the strong relationships UVic has built with Indigenous communities. A very special thanks to my friend Charles Elliott and to the team at First Peoples House.”

As the formal portion of the ceremony began, speaker Al Sam called on people from the audience and on stage to witness the ceremony and carry it in their memories.

Before the unveiling of the podium by Elder Marie Cooper, Nick Elsoton (Tsawout) read the story that is symbolically represented on the artwork on the pole and the podium. Two black raven figures, signifying messengers, frame the podium’s centre design. The birds are Great Blue Herons, whose wings act as caps for the two human figures, representing the Creator—who open eyes as all—and SWIWLE’s, a young man whose eyes are closed in a vision. The two frogs symbolize the end and beginning of a cycle, and the sacred
On May 28, a crowd of 250 people helped UVic officially mark the start of construction of the Centre for Athletic Re-creation, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA). The Reynolds High School drumline and UVic Vikes cheer team hit some high notes, and they were not the only ones.

Barney Williams, UVic alumnus and Olympic rower, summed up the overall spirit of celebration and momentum. He described how UVic offered the coaching, facilities and, most excitingly for his parents, the academic pathway. That pathway led me to Oxford University. To be able to stand up here right now as a graduate of both UVic and Oxford University and say that we are now taking a step beyond Oxford when it comes to athletic facilities is a pretty, pretty cool thing to say.

UVic President David Turpin began the afternoon by acknowledging the importance of CARSA: “The case for CARSA is clear. This magnificent facility will transform our athletic and recreational programs. It will bring together undergraduate and postgraduate students that support and enhance our commitment to quality in teaching, research and community engagement. That is why CARSA is UVic’s number one capital priority and a signature legacy project marking its 50th anniversary year. This magnificent facility will create an environment in supporting CARSA—together we will create a new and exciting hub for academic excellence and active living at UVic.”

Also speaking that afternoon were Josh Yates, future UVic undergraduate student and former CanAssist client; school of physical education faculty member Lara Lauzon, widely recognized for exceptional teaching; and the Faculty of Social Sciences. Dr. Leslie Brown, director of Community-Based Research (RPKM), which launched in April.

The two will complement each other and support innovative projects, which helped communities and generated over 70,000 hours of volunteer time.

Now, the university’s numerous community engagement functions are being linked. Community engagement research will be done by RPKM. The community outreach and partnerships done by RCM, UVic Industry Partnerships, and UVic’s Office of Research Services are now under the mandate of the Research Partnerships and Knowledge Mobilization unit (RPKM), which launched in April.

RPKM helps provide partnerships between faculty and external organizations, including industry, community and government. It’s a ‘one-stop’ shop where public and private sector partners can access services for brokering collabora- tive research opportunities and partnerships.

The two will complement each other, says Leslie, and provide the opportunity for UVic to closely examine community engagement.

“Are we creating that space for the community and university to come together? We’ll look at what we’ve done. Has it been effective? Can we do it better? How? What benefit is there for students and how can we improve that? We’ll look at what we’re doing and why. It’s a place of reflection and action as we move forward,” Brown said.

CARSA will support experiential learning—for instance, a recreation-studies student might work with a particular client on the new 18-metre climbing tower—and will serve as another extension of the UVic classroom.

The stage party wrapped up with a plaque unveiling to commemorate this legacy project. Presentations and activities showcased the work of CanAssist and Vikes Athletics. Thun- der the UVic mascot mingled with attendees, and an impromptu basketball scrimmage hinted at the athletic enthusiasm to come, after the ceremo- nial ribbon cutting in two years.

The new facility will include new offices, labs and a machine shop for CanAssist, helping this unique organi- zation fulfill its dream of becoming a leader in creating world-class innova- tive assistive technologies in support of people living with disabilities. CanAssist will be the university’s first major athletics and recreation facility in over 30 years. It is targeted to achieve LEED gold certification, with completion scheduled for spring 2015.

Visit www.uvic.ca/CARSA for addi- tional details and ongoing construc- tion updates.

Flicker stream of May 28 event photo- toes www.flickr.com/photos/canassist 2013

YouTube videos of stage party march-in with drumline: http://youtu.be/R0TfswSM-mc

Celebrating CARSA’s foundation for the future

BY TARA SHARPE

New institution to support community-university engagement

Atkinson’s new project on the snowpack structure, which is required for advanced electronic devices; and geographer Dr. David Elbing’s research will be done by RPKM. The new facility for...
UVIC to Award Five Honorary Degrees in Spring 2013

Five individuals with exceptional records of distinction in public service, research and teaching will accept honorary degrees at Spring Convocation ceremonies. Drawing from nominations received from the university community, the UVic Senate selects honorary degree recipients on the basis of their accomplishments in community, national or international service. The nominations are available following the ceremonies at www.communications.uvic.ca/podcasting/convocation.

The university has conferred honorary degrees each year since 1964 based on nominations submit-
ted to the UVic Senate from members of the university community. Past recipients include Prince Philip, Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin and Coast Salish artist Susan Point.

This spring’s honorees are:

Prof. Peter MacKinnon
Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)
Presented at 10 a.m., Thursday, June 13

During his tenure as the eighth presi-
dent of the University of Saskatch-
ewan, from 1999 to 2012, Prof. Peter MacKinnon advanced his university’s competitive position while advocating for Canada’s major science facilities. Two facilities established during MacKinnon’s tenure put the University of Saskatchewan on the map for major research initiatives in Canada. The International Vaccine Centre (Intervax) provides state-of-the-art facilities for disease research while the Canadian Light Source (or synchrotron) hosts the study of the microstructure and chemical properties of materials.

Along with colleagues from across Canada, MacKinnon promoted “big science” (such as the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory and the UBC-based Ocean Networks Canada) helped lead to Canada’s Major Science Initiatives program, providing $185 million in funding over five years.

MacKinnon was appointed an Offi-
cer of the Order of Canada in 2012 and received the inaugural Prime Minister of Canada Award for Excellence in Science and Technology. In 2008, he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada and in 2009, he was elected to the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

Hon. Peter Milliken
Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)
Presented at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 12

The Honorable Peter Milliken holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, serving from 2001 until his retirement in 2011. An expert in parliamentary procedure, he was especially adept at dealing with the partisanship of six years of minority governments while bring-
ing a sense of civility to a deeply divided Commons.

He made landmark rulings—on the release of government docu-
ments related to Afghan detainees, cost estimates related to crime legis-
lation and fighter jet purchases—that set precedents for Parliament’s right to information. He was also called upon to break tie votes on five separate occasions (in all, there have been only 10 tie votes since Confederation).

Milliken was first elected to Parlia-
ment in 1988 in the Ontario riding of Kingston and the Islands, a seat he held for the Liberals in six subsequent elections.

Ms. Sharon McVor
Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)
Presented at 10 a.m., Thursday, June 13

A member of the Lower Nicola First Nation, Sharon McVor is a lawyer and activist who for nearly three decades has been a champion of individual dignity and rights, particularly those of Aboriginal women and children.

In the case of McVor v. Canada, she challenged provisions of the In-
Indians Act on the basis of gender bias. The resulting ‘McVor Amendments’ were enacted by Parliament in 2010. The legislative reforms created 45,000 Aboriginal women and their descend-
ant status as status Indians.

McVor continues to fight for the removal of all gender discrimination from the Indian Act.

McVor has been a leader in the Canadian Feminist Alliance for Inter-
national Action and, in collaboration with the Native Women’s Association of Canada, she has been instrumental in bringing the hundreds of murders and disappearances of Aboriginal women and girls to the attention of international human rights bodies.

In her teaching, she has designed and instructed courses in Indigenous studies at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, passing on her expertise, practical wisdom and sense of justice to the next generation of Aboriginal students.

Dr. Adel Sedra
Honorary Doctor of Science (DSc)
Presented at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 13

Dr. Adel Sedra is a gifted scholar, teacher, university administrator, and advocate for engineering research and education. He co-authored Microelec-
tronics Circuits, the best-selling engi-
neering textbook in history, with more than a million copies in print in more than 10 languages. It is considered the standard for teaching circuitry in electrical engineering and is used by an estimated eight out of 10 students learning microelectronics worldwide.

Sedra entered Cairo University in his native Egypt at the age of 15. He moved to Canada in 1964 to complete his PhD at the University of Toronto where he would later serve as a profes-
sor, department chair, vice president academic, provost and chief academic officer.

Sedra was dean of engineering at the University of Waterloo from 2003–12 and played a critical role in establishing the first overseas Canadian university campus offering multiple undergraduate programs the University of Waterloo’s United Arab Emirates campus.

Sedra has supervised more than 60 graduate students, most of whom have taken senior academic and industry positions in microelectronics. He is the holder of three patents, author of more than 60 refereed journal papers and the co-author of three books.

A thank-you message from David Turpin

President David Turpin steps aside on June 30, after serving as UVic’s leader since 2000

This has been a special and memo-
nable year in the life of the University of Victoria. We have celebrated 50 years of achievement, giving our faculty, staff, students, alumni and community part-
tners the opportunity to reflect on the many great moments that have contributed to our rich and diverse history and to look to the future with a sense of confidence and anticipation.

This month, our annual year-end review of the University of Victoria’s fiscal year is complete. As we reflect on the year, we are reminded of the many accomplishments that have contributed to our success. We are proud of our record of excellence in the following areas:

- Academic excellence: UVic is consistently ranked in the top 200 universities in the world by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.
- Research excellence: UVic is home to more than 60 research chairs and centres, and has received more than $400 million in external research funding in the past five years.
- Community engagement: UVic is committed to being a partner in the Victoria community and to making a positive impact on the region.
- International partnerships: UVic has partnerships with universities in more than 50 countries, and has more than 10,000 international students.
- Sustainability: UVic is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and has made significant progress in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.
- Diversity and inclusion: UVic is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of the UVic community.
- Alumni engagement: UVic has more than 120,000 alumni around the world, and is committed to staying connected with them.

As we look to the future, we are confident that UVic will continue to be a leader in higher education, research and community engagement. We are proud of our accomplishments and our commitment to excellence.

Thank you to all of our partners, friends and supporters who have made UVic the success it is today. We look forward to continuing our work in the years to come.

David H. Turpin, CM, PhD, FRCSE
President and vice-chancellor
From Metchosin to UVic, and on to Oxford

Growing up in rural Metchosin, Nathan West's interest in biology and nature came from walking out the back door. Play dates were in the woods. For pocket money, West raised chickens and sold their eggs to local bakeries and neighbours.

His boyhood interest in science carried through high school at Belmont Secondary, and expanded to include human biology as well. 

So when West started at the University of Victoria in 2003, he thought he'd become a physician, combining his interests in biology and helping people.

But as he studied biology and microbiology during his undergraduate, the world of research opened up. Of particular note was a fourth-year elective course on the molecular basis of cancer taught by Dr. Howard. 

"When I started, I didn't have a good feel for the research world but as I went on, I became more and more interested in the cell biology of the human body, particularly the biology of cancer and immunology," West said. "The structure of the cell is an elegant system. It was cell biology that got me interested. Cancer, at its most fundamental level, is a problem of defective cell machinery."

That led to an honours lab with Dr. Robert Burke, now chair of the biochemistry and microbiology department, that cemented West's interest in research as his way to contribute to medical science.

West continued at UVic for his PhD, working with Dr. Burke as well as Dr. Peter Waterton of the Deyo Research Centre at the B.C. Cancer Agency.

West's dissertation on breast cancer research, along with his 9.0 grade point average, led to his being honoured with the Governor General's Gold Medal for top master's thesis (all faculties), arrived safely and thrived within UVic's graduate environment.

"Not only did our class form a close bond amongst each other, but we were welcomed with open arms by upper-year grad students, members of the faculty, and the administrative staff," Conrad says. "It made for a friendly atmosphere, and one that contributed to the formation of a vibrant community of legal scholars-in-the-making."

Conrad came to UVic for his Master of Laws degree, after two and a half years of private practice as a trial lawyer in Montreal, to pursue his interest in public and constitutional law.

Although initially weighing Oxford University, he was swayed by a former prof at McGill, who noted the caliber of faculty at UVic in Conrad's area of interest. Accepted to both institutions, Conrad chose UVic, with whom he also engaged in meaningful and encouraging discussions in the field.

Conrad worked closely with professors Benjamin Berger (now at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto) and Avigail Eisenberg at UVic, where his thesis explored how we should conceive of the role of constitutional courts in shaping public policy in a religiously diverse society, in particular when religious commitments are at stake.

"My interest in this topic was prompted by my concern with public policy and religious freedom," Conrad says, adding that Berger was "thoughtful, intellectually rigorous, and generous with his time."

"It really was an exercise in intellectual exploration," he says of his graduate studies. "I didn't know where I was going to end up when I started. And as I engaged in my research, I became more and more interested in political and legal theory and philosophy."
International business student seizes opportunities

George Fu, an international student from China, is finishing up his Bachelor of Commerce degree at the Gustavson School of Business. Fu took part in the school’s dual degree program which allowed him to begin his academic career at his home university of Sun Yat Sen before moving to Victoria to complete his degree.

As with many international students, there was the language barrier issue. “People have different personalities in each second language. The second language kills it to some extent, you can’t show your full personality, because you can’t explain yourself. It’s a challenge that you have to deal with,” he explains.

In China, Fu co-founded the Toastmasters speaking club at his university. “I practised a lot, but language was still a barrier. And then I came here and practised for two years. It definitely helped me with the job interview process,” he adds. And the interview process has gone well for Fu. Even before he inked his last exam, he accepted a financial analyst position with Shell in Calgary where he will be working as a financial analyst position with Shell in Calgary where he will be working.

Fu’s successful journey to Canada started years ago. “I practised a lot, but it’s in English. So I studied, summarized all the terms and memorized them.”

While at Mark’s Work Wearhouse managing a supply chain database, Fu compiled and analyzed data. “This gave him the chance to practise his strategic thinking,” says Fu that he thrives on a balance of analytical and communicative skills. “You can be a good presenter but without knowing anything about business, it’s useless,” Fu explains. “Being purely analytical is also useless because you can’t elaborate on your findings. You have to get a thorough business understanding and then take the internal knowledge and understanding you have, and communicate it to others.”

Fu is looking forward to starting his career and reflects on his time at Gustavson. “Two years ago I was a Chinese student who knew nothing about Canada or Western culture; my English wasn’t good. Gustavson was a steep learning curve, but the university gives you the resources and the room to progress. I still have a long journey to go, in terms of my personal goals for working in international business, but UVic helped me a lot on the way.”

Christina Ljubic globs as she talks about her family in Toronto and in Croatia. “My family is very proud,” says Ljubic. “I have asked my grandfather to read my thesis on the war. It is the war—the Homeland War, or the Croatian War of Independence (1991–1995)—that shaped and steered a lot of Ljubic’s path toward a master’s degree in political science.

“The war impacted my life from a very young age,” explains Ljubic. “I was four when war broke out in Croatia, many of my family were killed in or fled from refugee camps.” Ljubic grew up in Toronto with two Croatian parents who were very involved with the Canadian Croatian community. Both her mother and father were politically active and Ljubic remembers seeing her parents on television squares, raising some of the peaceful demonstrations against the war in Croatia.

“I grew up immersed in politics, I am passionate about politics,” says Ljubic, “I needed to write about the war in Croatia. I was always asking my family about the war.”

In 1996, at the age of nine, Ljubic visited Croatia with her parents. “It was right after the war had ended; we had to make sure our family was ok,” explains Ljubic. “The utter devastation stays with Ljubic. “I just had to be somewhere where I could walk to the beach.”

It was also the beauty of the environment that helped Ljubic balance the devastation that she was reading about on a daily basis. “When I needed a break, the beach was there,” says Ljubic. “It was such a contrast to my research that it really helped me find some emotional balance.”

Playing the Croatian instrument, the tambura, also gives Ljubic some of that life balance. “It is like a guitar, a stringed instrument,” explains Ljubic. Ljubic has played the tambura since she was nine years old and continues to play with her folklore group Vatroslav. “Last Christmas the group recorded their first CD.”

“I did some singing on the CD as well,” says Ljubic, “along with my brother.”

Ljubic is passionate and optimistic about her future. Her immediate plans include returning to the Toronto area and beginning a career in international work or the Foreign Service sector in the face of Climate Change, “at Christmas the group recorded their first CD.”

“The Ring is going to be on-campus for a social media awareness-raising campaign and how it is being used by social media providers listed so far. “How much of your Tumblr, LinkedIn or MySpace personal information will those sites share with third parties? Technology companies newly launched by UVic researchers (catsmi.ca) research associate Erica Crawford and graduate student Rachelle Beversluis. The PICS research associate “Strengthening BC’s Agriculture Sector in the Face of Climate Change,” is the result of interviews and focus groups with BC Agriculture and specialists across the province. The paper builds on the findings of the BC Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation Risk & Opportunity Assessment published in 2012.

Social media storytellers revealed

More than a dozen UVic students, organized around four separate video projects, have garnered five of the 25 winning entries in the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) video contest Research for a Better Life: The Storytellers involving universities across Canada. Anita Girvan, Allison James-Lomas, Stuart McAlister, Cassandra Paterson and Pappas-Acrom, Janne Miller-Ussikos, Adele Barday, Alex Christie, Arthur Hain, Kate Tanigawa, Mikka Jacobson, Trina Belenger and Shawn MacPhillers put together videos that also played a part in the awareness-raising campaign leading to Congress 2013. Read more or watch the videos at bit.ly/convo-write

Campus cellphone project improvement open house

Representatives from Rogers and Telus Mobility will be on-campus for an open house to discuss planned improvements to on-campus cellphone coverage. View displays, talk to company reps, answer questions and ask questions. Monday, June 24, from 3:00–6:00 p.m., Michele Papaj Rowan, Student Union Building. More info: bit.ly/plan-yan

writing grad's narrative is a progression of literary awards

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More grad stories online

Additional stories about students who graduate this Spring appear on the Ring website, including standout stories from the Faculties of Education, Engineering, Human and Social Development, Law and Science.

The full list appears at bit.ly/uvic-convos

Additional profiles that appear online include:

- Drew Commandeur, kinesiology:
  Commandeur’s path towards becoming a physiotherapist is a study in admiraline, and the bumps and bruises that come along with an active lifestyle.

- Kaitlyn Crabtree, law:
  Crabtree, who concentrated on Indigenous law during her studies at UVic, is the fifth UVic law grad in her family. She cites community engagement as a core part of her education, in and out of the classroom.

- Andy Huerlimann, engineering:
  Graduating with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, a specialization in mechatronics and a minor in business, Andy Huerlimann won’t need to search for work any time soon. His co-op experiences—which have taken him as far as Brazil—have also led to a permanent job offer from one of his co-op employers.

- Daniel Moller, biochemistry and microbiology:
  Daniel Moller’s natural curiosity about how things work together fed him to study and to help conduct research as an undergraduate in biochemistry and microbiology while at UVic.

- Kara Sundberg, nursing:
  Kara Sundberg’s nursing education spanned the width of the province, by enrolling in a joint UVic-Selkirk College program that allowed her to begin her education, in and out of the classroom.

- Anna Patten, nursing:
  Anna Patten found UVic’s graduate program in neuroscience, which will confer its first degree to her this June, through love. Not just love of science—but for the young Canadian woman, she met while working in a British pub.

- Daniel Moller, biochemistry and microbiology:
  With Christie as supervisor, Patten has finished her PhD in neuroscience, researching the effects of Omegas on the brain. Omega 3 fatty acids, found in salmon, halibut and tuna as well as green leafy vegetables and nuts, help neurons communicate more efficiently, her research has found.

- Charlie Aikin, law:
  Charlie Aikin is the fifth UVic law grad in his family. He cites community engagement as a core part of his education, in and out of the classroom.

- Daniel Moller, biochemistry and microbiology:
  Daniel Moller’s natural curiosity about how things work together fed him to study and to help conduct research as an undergraduate in biochemistry and microbiology while at UVic.

- Kara Sundberg, nursing:
  Kara Sundberg’s nursing education spanned the width of the province, by enrolling in a joint UVic-Selkirk College program that allowed her to begin her studies in Nelson, B.C. and finish up her third and fourth-year courses at UVic.

TAYLOR CONTINUED FROM P1

University of Victoria as a student in the honors program, which promotes science education in children.

Taylor appreciates tangibility in his literature studies, but his passion for palpability does not extend only to text: he is also an enthusiast of all things palatable, as an amateur chef.

The first in his family to earn a degree, he earned his way through university as a research and a teaching assistant, writing tutor and video-store clerk and even an administrative stint on the UVic 50th anniversary team.

He calls himself a “food tourist” but says he can be a “bit of a cheapo” (for good reason) in searching for grocery bargains and inexpensive food. He especially enjoys preparing Mexican and Indian cuisine, with fish tacos and homemade panzer being two favourites. However, in the weeks before convocation, he and his wife were not spending much time in the kitchen beyond boxing up their pots and pans before a return to their hometown.

Elliott Podium continued from P1

In 2005, he earned his PhD in political science, specializing in “the nation-state”. He was a tenured professor at the University of Victoria but is now a full professor at the University of Victoria, where he has taught international relations and comparative politics.

Taylor says his PhD inspired him to pursue a PhD in North America and had even written a statement of intent. “Then I did some soul-searching,” and decided he would rather not invest the time because “I really love teaching.” He admits he’ll continue to do both: he’ll teach and do research, but he won’t spend as much time in the classroom as he did during his PhD.

Taylor’s research has focused on the relationship between national identities and the nation-state, using case studies of India, Mexico, and Russia. He has published over 50 articles and book chapters on these topics, and has authored or co-authored four books.

Taylor has been a member of the editorial board of the International Journal of Political Science, and has served on the editorial board of the Journal of International Affairs. He has also been a guest editor for the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.

Taylor is currently working on a book on the politics of national identity in post-colonial nations, and has been awarded a number of grants to support his research.

Taylor’s research has been funded by a number of granting agencies, including the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

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A new chapter of leadership opens for UVic

The University of Victoria's new president takes office July 15. Jamie Cassels, who succeeds David Turpin to become the university's seventh president, was the unanimous choice of a 20-member search committee that included faculty, students, staff and senior academic and community representatives. Cassels is a familiar and well-respected figure at the university as a nationally-recognized teacher, international scholar, influential member of the legal community and academic leader. "I am incredibly excited about this opportunity and also very humbled to have been selected to lead one of the country's finest post-secondary institutions," Cassels told an enthusiastic crowd when his appointment was announced last December.

Since joining UVic as a law professor in 1981, Cassels has also served as dean of law and vice-president academic and provost. Nonetheless, Cassels says that when he takes office this summer, he plans to approach the job as if arriving on Ring Road for the first time.

"The first months I'm going to do a lot of listening," Cassels says. "I know this university. I know its outstanding students and faculty well. I have a very ambitious sense of where we can focus and what we can accomplish together. But I also want to hear from the university community and the external community about their hopes and aspirations for UVic."

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Heather Richards might not be a name you recognize, but if you’ve been to a party as a UVic staff member. Some examples include communicating with the UVic community about events, organizing materials on UVic’s great moments in history and writing content for the anniversary website. “This job has been really fascinating,” explains Heather in her charming British accent. “I’ve met a lot of interesting people.” The only downside? Sometimes she finds herself too busy to attend the events that she worked so hard to plan and execute.

Heather grew up in England, in an area known as “the Wirral.” She moved to Victoria in 2009, but it wasn’t the first time she had been to Canada. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Heather spent seven months working as a counsellor at a YMCA camp just outside of Calgary, Thorsby. At the base of the Rocky Mountains, Heather feels she had an authentic Canadian experience: wildlife spotting, canoeing, hiking and living in a tipi. She even got to shovel snow in April. During that time, she fell in love not only with Canada; she also met her future husband, Aaron, who she married back in her hometown in 2009. Years after their counselling experience, they would both return to Canada as UVic students. Heather pursuing a master’s in English and Aaron a bachelor’s in philosophy.

In addition to studying at UVic, Heather and Aaron live in family housing, have participated in campus clubs and worked various jobs on campus. “For the last four years, our whole lives have been UVic,” Heather says with a smile. “All of this has added to her excitement over celebrating the 50th anniversary. Not only is she celebrating UVic’s achievements as an employee, she is also celebrating uvic.ca/achievements.

As the anniversary comes to an end, Heather is still busy, archiving the Big Thinking lecture series, and social events – WorldFEST, the Buffy Sainte-Marie story (and the Buffy Sainte-Marie concert—that drew about 4,000 community members to campus.

“T’ll be happy and sad when the job’s done,” says Heather. Sad that the celebrations are over but happy that she and her team will have accomplished something memorable. Perhaps in the future, the UVic community will look back on these celebrations as another of its great moments in history.

So what’s next for Heather after the 50th anniversary period is over? She hopes to find time to travel across Canada and travel with Aaron. For now, however, she’s still focused on the anniversary. The final event, Shared Achievements, takes place on June 27 and celebrates UVic’s achievements under the leadership of David Turpin. RSVP at www.uvic.ca/achievements.

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Congress 2013 a mammoth success

From scholarly debate to daily entertainment, fabulous food and even a 40,000-year-old wooly-mammoth task—Congress 2013 of the Humanities and Social Sciences was a resounding success with something for everyone.

The months and months of preparation and smooth implementation of detailed plans, plus timely response to queries as they arose, resulted in a Congress that will not be soon forgotten by the approximately 7,800 delegates, hundreds of volunteers and thousands of community members who attended events from June 1 to 8.

“Congress has been an enormous success. Our staff and volunteers have been outstanding in making this a truly welcoming and memorable event,” says Catherine Mateer, Congress 2013 chair and associate vice-president academic planning. “Delegates from across the country and around the world have enjoyed dynamic presentations, stimulating scholarly exchanges and cultural and social events that have exceeded expectations. They will have a very positive, lasting impression of Congress 2013 at UVic.”

During the week, 70 academic associations offered more than 1,800 presentations and sessions, including one with a 40,000-year-old mammoth task from a Dawson City gold field. Offering technical support was the entire University Systems team, while Residence Services smoothly dealt with 2,600 delegates staying on campus, to UVic Congress manager Suzanne Dane and her team for working with the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences to plan and execute a perfect event, to all our faculty, staff and students who executed the plan and hosted associations and delegates, and of course to all the volunteers,” says Dean of Humanities John Archibald.

“We have heard nothing but accolades and kudos from many, many delegates and community members attending Congress 2013,” says Dean of Social Sciences Peter Keller.

Congress highlights included the Big Thinking lecture series, and the three UVic signature cultural and social events—WorldFEST, the Indigenous Circle Celebration and Dedication Ceremony (see front page story) and the Buffy Sainte-Marie concert—that drew about 4,000 community members to campus.

“We owe a huge vote of thanks to everyone who attended Congress 2013, to UVic Congress manager Suzanne Dane and her team for working with the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences to plan and execute a perfect event, to all our faculty, staff and students who executed the plan and hosted associations and delegates, and of course to all the volunteers,” says Dean of Humanities John Archibald.

“We have heard nothing but accolades and kudos from many, many delegates and community members attending Congress 2013,” says Dean of Social Sciences Peter Keller.

Congress 2013 was hosted by Brock University in Saint Catharines, Ontario.

Read a longer version of this story online at ring.uvic.ca.

Mammoth tusk on display. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTOGALLERY

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CARBC researcher receives international award for work on alcohol use
Tim Stockwell, UVic psychology professor and director of the Centre for Addictions Research (CARBC), has received the 2013 Jellinek Memorial Fund Award. The award is given to a scientist who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the alcohol/alcoholism field and was presented during the 39th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society in Kampala, Uganda June 5-7.

Stockwell’s work on the relationship between public health and alcohol pricing has also drawn considerable attention from policy-makers and legislators in Canada, Australia, the US, across the European Union and particularly in Scotland, where the results are central to a debate on alcohol pricing.

Short film takes UVic staffer and two other alumni to Cannes
A short story turned short film turned out to be the shortest route to the Cannes International Film Festival for Fine Arts staff member Don Hogg. A digital media technician who specializes in film production, Hogg was invited to Cannes in May when his 10-minute film, Floodpool, was included in Telefilm Canada’s annual Short Not Short on Talent showcase. Floodpool is a collaboration between Hogg and two other writing alumni: Jeremy Lutter and rising literary star D.W. Wilson. All three UVic grads travelled to Cannes for the screening.

Recent writing grants collect new awards
On May 31, Department of Writing graduate Eliza Robertson was named as one of two international winners of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, just weeks after winning the Commonwealth Canada and Europe regional short story prize, for her story “We Walked on Water.” Her story has been published online by Granta magazine (bit.ly/elizab-granta). Earlier this spring, Robertson’s story “Eltangere” was announced as one of five finalists in CBC’s 2013 Short Story Prize (online at bit.ly/eltangere). Fellow writing alum Yasuko Thanh was named as a finalist for the Danuta Jellinek Memorial Fund Award for her collection of short stories, Floating Like the Dead.