



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/ceremonies/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 McDougall. 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.



THE RING

JUNE 2013

The University of Victoria's
community newspaper

ring.uvic.ca



Taylor. PHOTO: MITCH WRIGHT

3,434

NUMBER OF
DEGREES,
CERTIFICATES
AND DIPLOMAS
AWARDED
DURING SPRING
CONVOCATION

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SILVER MEDAL

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 Collections]. 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



Elder Marie Cooper and Al Sam unveil a special podium carved by Charles Elliott for First Peoples House. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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 on Vancouver Island—Coast Salish, Nuuchah-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 (Esquimalt Nation) welcomed the crowd to the territory of the Esquimalt and Lekwungen (Songhees) nations. Lekwungen Elder Elmer George offered a prayer in the

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 (Namgis); Ruth Cook (Kwakiutl); 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 WSÁNEC artist Charles Elliott (OBC, OC) was commissioned to carve in 1990, the last time Congress (then called the Learned's) 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 Claxton (Tsawout) read the story that is symbolically represented by 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 capes for the two human figures, representing the Creator—whose open eyes see all—and SWIWLES'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

SEE ELLIOTT PODIUM P.6

around the ring

New NSERC funding

Researchers and students at the University of Victoria are sharing nearly \$10 million in federal government grants and scholarships announced on May 21 by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

Among the projects supported are: biochemist Dr. Caren Helbing's investigation into how contaminants are affecting environmental and human health; mechanical engineer Dr. Sadik Dost's work to develop high-quality semiconducting crystals required for advanced electronic devices; and geographer Dr. David Atkinson's new project on the Columbia Icefield in the Rockies, examining how daily weather affects snowpack structure, which is important for avalanche and water resources issues.

The total funding for UVic from NSERC's 2013 Discovery Grants and scholarship competitions includes \$8.37 million over the next five years for 53 research initiatives and \$1.4 million divided among 28 graduate or post-graduate scholarships and two postdoctoral fellowships.

Celebrating CARSA's foundation for the future

BY TARA SHARPE

On May 28, a crowd of 250 people helped UVic officially mark the start of construction of the Centre for Athletics, 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 Olympian rower, summed up the overall spirit of celebration and momentum. He described how UVic "offered me the coaching, facilities and, most excitingly for my 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 under one roof opportunities 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 our 50th anniversary year. I encourage everyone to join us 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 on health and human wellness; UVic undergraduate humanities student and

varsity athlete Debbie Yeboah, who is completing her studies in philosophy and French; CARSA Cabinet Chair Tony Gage, member of UVic's Board of Governors; UVic Athletics and Recreation Director Clint Hamilton; and Mayor Frank Leonard of the District of Saanich. The presentations echoed the key motif of community commitment—to athletic excellence and healthy living as well as experiential learning and values such as inclusion, accessibility and civic engagement.

Yates explained how CanAssist invented "special goggles that allowed me to read my sheet music and see the conductor simultaneously. After that, I became a big fan of CanAssist... [and] I'm looking forward to seeing even more of my friends at CanAssist [after being accepted into UVic's School of Music for September 2013]."

Lauzon, an assistant professor in UVic's School for Exercise Science,

Physical and Health Education (EPHE), spoke about the integration of healthy lifestyle practices and academic excellence for all students. EPHE will benefit from a repurposing of vacated space in the McKinnon Building to bring the school's programs and faculty together under one roof, and in close proximity to CARSA.

UVic offers dynamic learning opportunities that help students apply what they learn to the outside world. 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. Thunder the UVic mascot mingled among

attendees, and an impromptu basketball scrimmage hinted at the athletic enthusiasm to come, after the ceremonial ribbon cutting in two years.

The new facility will include new offices, labs and a machine shop for CanAssist, helping this unique organization fulfill its dream of becoming a leader in creating world-class innovative assistive technologies in support of people living with disabilities.

CARSA 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 additional details and ongoing construction updates.

Flickr stream of May 28 event photos: www.flickr.com/photos/CARSA2015

YouTube video of stage party march-in with drumline: <http://youtu.be/RQYwi-numec>



(L-R) Hamilton, Gage, Lauzon, Yates, Yeboah, Leonard, Williams and Turpin. PHOTO: ALI LEE

New institute to support community-university engagement

The University of Victoria continued on its path to high-level community engagement with the creation of the new Institute for Studies and Innovation in Community-University Engagement (ISICUE).

The research centre, which opened June 3 as part of Congress 2013, is a collaboration between the Faculty of Human and Social Development and the Faculty of Social Sciences. It will study and practice community-university engagement, with the aim of contributing to solutions about community issues.

"This new institute enhances opportunities for the community and university to work together to promote and support innovative projects

and to evaluate the impact of our engagement," says Leslie Brown, director of the institute.

The institute builds on the expertise and work of the Office of Community-Based Research (OCBR) and its focus on community-engaged research and innovative ideas for the marketplace. OCBR was launched in 2007 and leveraged \$1.2 million in additional funds for its 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 ISICUE. The community outreach and partner-

ships done by OCBR, 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 collaborative research opportunities and partnerships.

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

"We're 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.

ISICUE will be co-governed equally by community and university representatives. It will be co-chaired by Sandra Richardson, CEO of the Victoria Foundation, Dr. Peter Keller, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Mary Ellen Purkis, dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Development, and Linda Hughes, CEO of the United Way of Greater Victoria.

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REGISTERED RETIREMENT INCOME FUND (RRIF)

	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
Minimum Payout *		\$238	\$278	\$333	\$615	\$654	\$729
Total Payout to Age 100		\$152,572	\$143,137	\$134,416	\$124,797	\$120,739	\$114,909

Accelerated Payout: Income over 5 years.....\$1,764
Income over 10 years \$932
Income over 15 years \$655

Total 5 year payout.....\$105,825
Total 10 year payout.....\$111,791
Total 15 year payout.....\$117,969

* Based on best current GIC of 2.26%. Returns will vary depending on investment vehicle. Monthly income based on \$100,000

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	AGE	55	60	65	71	75	80
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...payments cease at death		\$486	\$508	\$586	\$727	\$825	\$1,019
...10 years guaranteed		\$477	\$502	\$564	\$649	\$714	\$828
Female							
...payments cease at death		\$413	\$480	\$522	\$625	\$721	\$894
...10 years guaranteed		\$415	\$477	\$514	\$596	\$663	\$775
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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. Podcasts of the acceptance remarks of honorary degree recipients will be available following the ceremonies at www.communications.uvic.ca/podcasting/convocation.

The university has conferred honorary degrees each year since 1964 based on nominations submitted 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 honorands are:



Rayani. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



MacKinnon. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Milliken. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



McIvor. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES



Sedra. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Mr. Nazmudin (Naz) G. Rayani HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)

Presented at 2:30 p.m., Monday, June 10

Naz Rayani is a Victoria pharmacist and community leader whose infectious generosity of spirit—rooted in the Ismaili Muslim faith—has created a legacy of service, cross-cultural understanding and tolerance. From 1995 to 2010 he was convenor and co-convenor of the annual World Partnership Walk in Victoria, an initiative of the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada. The walk takes place in 10 cities and is Canada’s largest annual event for increasing awareness and raising funds to fight global poverty. Rayani personally raises substantial donations for each year’s walk while inspiring his friends and family to share in the effort. Rayani has worked tirelessly to break down barriers among people of different faiths. Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001 he has conducted regular tours of the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre (Mosque) in Burnaby to encourage understanding and the acceptance of others. More than 2,000 Victorians have taken the tour. A former member of the advisory council of the UVic Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, Rayani founded the centre’s Muslim Library Resources Fund, which annually acquires new resources on Islamic studies for the UVic Library. He has also been a key figure in fundraising for the Distinguished Lecture Series in Islam.

Prof. Peter MacKinnon HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)

Presented at 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 11

During his tenure as the eighth president of the University of Saskatchewan, 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 (InterVac) 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’s promotion of “big science” (such as the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory and the UVic-based Ocean Networks Canada) helped lead to Industry Canada’s Major Science Initiatives program, providing \$185 million in funding over five years. MacKinnon was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2012 and received the inaugural Prime Minister of Canada Fellowship last September. He was a member of the federal Science, Technology and Innovation Council from 2007–2012, overseeing (with McGill Principal Heather Munroe Blum) the preparation of council’s State of the Nations reports.

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 bringing a sense of civility to a deeply divided Commons. He made landmark rulings—on the release of government documents related to Afghan detainees, cost estimates related to crime legislation 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 Parliament in 1988 in the Ontario riding of Kingston and the Islands, a seat he held for the Liberals in six subsequent elections.

Ms. Sharon McIvor HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)

Presented at 10 a.m., Thursday, June 13

A member of the Lower Nicola First Nation, Sharon McIvor 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 *McIvor v. Canada*, she challenged provisions of the Indian Act on the basis of gender bias. The resulting “McIvor Amendments” were enacted by Parliament in 2010. The legislative reforms meant 45,000 Aboriginal women and their descendants became eligible for Indian status. She continues to fight for the removal of all gender discrimination from the Indian Act. McIvor has been a leader in the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International 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 *Microelectronic Circuits*, the best-selling engineering textbook in history, with more than a million copies in print in more than 10 languages. It’s 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 professor, 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 memorable year in the life of the University of Victoria. We have celebrated 50 years of achievement, giving our faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners 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.

Thirteen and a half years ago when I decided to accept the position of president, I knew that, as a result of excellent faculty, students and staff, UVic was a university with great potential. In its relatively brief history, UVic has developed internationally acclaimed programs in research and teaching. It has established a leading co-operative education program and

its athletic accomplishments are legendary. Our university has grown in size and in stature, consistently ranking among the finest post-secondary institutions—not only in Canada, but in the world. UVic’s reputation for excellence strengthens with each passing year, a result of inspired teaching, outstanding research, community engagement and a welcoming and inclusive campus environment. Those are points of pride in which we can all share. I have been fortunate to work with many talented and committed individuals—current and former students, faculty, staff, board members and senators, and university leaders across campus. It has been a special privilege working with government officials, research partners and members of funding agencies, as well as the many other individuals, alumni and donors from across the province and country, each of whom have contributed to UVic’s progress and growth. I also have no doubt UVic will reach even



Turpin. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

greater heights under the leadership of Jamie Cassels. We all realize that it is through the hard work of everyone that our university has become so successful. We are incredibly fortunate to benefit from the efforts of such a fine community working together to achieve our shared vision. I thank each and every one of you for your contributions to our success. It has been an honour to work with

you and to serve as the president of UVic. Indeed, this role has been the highlight of my career and I am proud to be part of such an outstanding institution. When I leave the position at the end of June, it will be with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the friendship and support I enjoyed during my term: thank you! David H. Turpin, CM, PhD, FRSC
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

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Major medal winners

Governor-General's Gold Medal (best Doctoral thesis)
DR. NATHANIEL WEST
PhD, Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology

Governor General's Silver Medal (top undergraduate student)
NIGEL BURKE
BSc Honours in Combined Physics and Mathematics

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (best Master's thesis)
MR. GEOFFREY CONRAD
LLM, Faculty of Law

Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (Other than Thesis)
MR. ADAM TAYLOR
MA, Department of English

Jubilee Medal in Humanities
BRITTNEY O'NEILL
BA Honours in Linguistics, Chinese Studies Minor

Jubilee Medal in Science
DANIEL MOLLER
BSc Honours in Biochemistry

The Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology Undergraduate Student Award
DREW THOMAS COMMANDEUR
BSc, Honours in Kinesiology

Certificate of Outstanding Academic Distinction in the Faculty of Human and Social Development
KARA SUNDBERG
BSN

The Law Society Gold Medal
CATHERINE GEORGE
JD

Victoria Medal in Fine Arts
REGAN SHRUMM
BA Honours in History in Art, Film Studies Minor

Jubilee Medal in the Social Sciences
SAM AGASSIZ
BA, Economics

The Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering Medal
ANDREW BERRY
BEng in Mechanical Engineering

Department of Computer Science Graduation Medal
TENG (TIM) SONG
BSc Honours in Computer Science

The IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Computer Engineering
DAVID LOUIS EDWARD RUSK
BEng, Computer Engineering

The IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Electrical Engineering
JARRAH GERALD BERGERON
BEng, Electrical Engineering

The IEEE Victoria Section Gold Medal in Software Engineering
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MCKNIGHT
BSEng, Software Engineering

CONVOCATION 2013

Congratulations, grads!



Thousands of UVic students and their families and friends will gather on campus this month to celebrate the achievement of an academic milestone. During spring convocation, which stretches across nine ceremonies conducted from June 10–14, the University of Victoria will award 3,434 degrees, diplomas and certificates. The ceremonies will also be webcast live (uvic.ca/convocation). Congratulations and best wishes to all convocating students.

As Friday's ceremony will be Dr. David Turpin's final convocation as President of UVic, it will include a special tribute in recognition of his years of leadership at the university.

On the following pages, we present profiles of a few of the many outstanding members of this year's graduating class:

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 on 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 undergrad, the world of research opened up. Of particular note was a fourth-year elective course on the molecular basis of cancer taught by Dr. Perry 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 cool 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 with Dr. Peter Watson of the Deeley 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 this year, given annually to a student in a post graduate degree program on the basis of their marks and thesis

"Nathan is an outstanding citizen and his success in research is a great example of a key principle in research: If you keep asking great questions, the discoveries will flow!" Watson said.

West's breast cancer research focused on the complex interactions that take place between cancer cells



West. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

and the non-cancerous cells and molecules in their immediate surroundings, known generally as the tumour microenvironment.

Interactions between cancer and the immune system are increasingly recognized as processes that critically influence the outcome of disease, West states. While the presence of immune cells in tumours is thought to reflect an attempt at disease eradication or containment, cancer cells can exploit the immune system through a variety of means, including the recognition of leukocyte-derived cytokines. West's dissertation explored the influences of one such cytokine, oncostatin-M (OSM) on the behaviour of breast cancer cells.

West, 27, is now working at the University of Oxford in the experimental medicine division at John Radcliffe Hospital, focusing on research into colorectal cancer and how the immune system is involved in cancer development.

"With research, you're not technically restricted to investigating any one thing. You can decide what is important and pursue it and the thrill of discovery is quite a charge," said West, who wants to provide meaningful improvements in patient welfare for people with cancer.

West works hard at making his research accessible, so that people can better understand the valuable role research plays in science and medicine.

"We need research to make sense to as many people as possible. It's important for funding and also important for the public, who have a major stake in research."

Silver medalist studies the role of law in a religiously diverse society



Conrad. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

One of the biggest challenges Geoffrey Conrad faced in his graduate studies at University of Victoria Law was simply getting here—towing a U-Haul trailer behind a compact car through the Rockies and all the way from his hometown of Montreal.

Travel adventures aside, Conrad, this year's recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal for top master's thesis (all faculties), arrived safely and thrived within UVic Law'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 eyeing 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 in part because he was also offered significant financial support.

"That tipped the balances in its favour," Conrad says. "It didn't hurt that my wife and I had never set foot on Vancouver Island, and that Victoria sounded like a great place to live."

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 judging and public policy, while I have Prof. Berger to thank for encouraging me to reflect on the particular challenges that religion poses for public decision-making," 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 legal and political theory and philosophy."

Along with the financial support through UVic and a SSHRC grant awarded to Prof. Berger, Conrad credits his wife Kristina for supporting and encouraging him to pursue his academic goals, even though it meant leaving their jobs and uprooting from their home. He says they were fortunate that Kristina was given a leave of absence from her job in Montreal and quickly secured a position working in administration at the Faculty of Education at UVic.

Conrad graduated from UVic last year and in September returned to McGill, where he completed his initial law degree, to begin studies for a Doctor of Civil Law degree and work toward his goal of becoming a professor. The Conrads also welcomed their son Charlie in December.

International business student seizes opportunities



Fu. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

George Fu, an international student from Guangzhou, China, is graduating with his Bachelor of Commerce degree from 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 degrees.

As with many international students, there was the language barrier issue. "People have different personalities in their 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 starting in July.

Fu couldn't be more happy and is thankful that UVic gave him such a varied skill set. He encourages his fellow international students to capitalize on all the opportunities made available to them during their studies. "Don't be shy. Be more active, get involved and take yourself outside of your comfort zone."

Fu completed two co-op work terms as part of his degree which he credits with helping to develop his varied skill set. He also got the chance to live in two of Cana-

da's biggest cities, spending eight months at Toronto's Hydro One, the largest electricity provider in Ontario, and four months at Calgary's Mark's Work Warehouse apparel company. As a commercial contract specialist for Hydro One, Fu was the first reader of all contracts coming in to Hydro One. "The first couple of weeks it was really hard. Even in Chinese I wouldn't necessarily know what all the jargon meant, but it's in English. So I studied, summarized all the terms and memorized them."

While at Mark's Work Warehouse managing a supply chain database, Fu compiled and analyzed data. This gave him the chance to practise his strategic thinking. Fu says that he thrives on a balance of analysis and communication. "You can be a really 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 know 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."

Political science grad reflects on family, Croatia and UVic



Ljubic. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Christina Ljubic glows as she talks about her family in Toronto and in Croatia. "My family is very proud," says Ljubic, "they are all excited 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 our family were killed or interred at 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 during 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, says Ljubic, we just didn't know." The utter devastation stays with Ljubic. She can describe in detail the widespread destruction of buildings and countryside, and the many friends and family who went missing or lived in refugee camps.

"There were mines everywhere," Ljubic recalls, "even in the graveyards. Sometimes I was too scared to even get out of the car."

Ljubic's cousins escaped the bombing of their village but their father was killed. Years later through letters and emails, Ljubic says it is still very hard for her cousins. During her thesis research, Ljubic appreciated the support she received from her family and

thesis advisor, Dr. Amy Verdun.

"My academic challenges were cutting down the length and scope of my research," explains Ljubic, "I could only examine and research the beginning of the war, not the entire period of conflict."

After receiving a BA in International Development from York University, Ljubic chose UVic to do her master's degree in part due to its coastal location.

"I was always drawing oceans and mountains as a child," remembers Ljubic, "I just had to be somewhere that 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 right 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.

She has played the tambura since she was nine years old and continues to play with her folklore group Vatroslav Lisinski. At 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 before pursuing more academia.

"I love travelling and working within the international community," says Ljubic, "but first I need to spend some time with my family." Ljubic will receive her master's degree in political science at the June 14, 2013 convocation.

around the ring

Find out what Twitter, Facebook and others say about your privacy

How much of your Tumblr, LinkedIn or MySpace personal information will those sites share with third parties? A website recently launched by UVic researchers (catsmi.ca) helps Canadians get smart about their personal privacy and how it is being used by social media providers. "This website has 24 social media providers listed so the public can do a side-by-side comparison of each company's privacy beliefs," says researcher Adam Molnar, UVic PhD candidate in political science. The idea behind the site (and the year-long research project it's part of) is that the evolution of a more "social web" poses significant challenges to theories of informational privacy as well as to the Canadian legal system.

PICS report looks at BC agriculture and climate change

Climate change will make it even harder to put locally sourced food on our tables if steps are not taken to strengthen the British Columbia (BC) agriculture sector, according to a new report, co-authored by Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) research associate Erica Crawford and grad student Rachelle Beveridge. The PICS white paper, "Strengthening BC's Agriculture Sector in the face of Climate Change," is the result of interviews and focus groups with agricultural producers and specialists across the province. The paper builds on the findings of the BC Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation Risk & Opportunity Assessment published in 2012. bit.ly/pics-bcag

SSHRC storytellers revealed

More than a dozen UVic students, organized around four separate video projects, produced four 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, Alison James-Lomax, Stuart McAlister, Cassandra Paterson, Yianni Pappas-Acreman, Jana Millar-Usiskin, Adele Barclay, Alex Christie, Arthur Hain, Katie Tanigawa, Mikka Jacobsen, Nina Belojevic and Shaun MacPherson 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/uvic-SSHRC-vids

Campus cellphone service improvement project 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 representatives and ask questions. Monday, June 17, from 3:00–6:00 p.m., Michèle Pujol Room, Student Union Building. More info: <http://bit.ly/plan-proj>

A PROMISING LITERARY CAREER

Writing grad's narrative is a progression of literary awards



Klippenstein. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Writing program BFA graduate Cody Klippenstein has always loved stories and storytelling. As a child, her curious and creative nature would often get her into trouble. "I can't remember a time when I wasn't inventing things, even when I probably shouldn't have been," she jokes.

And when she enrolled in UVic's writing program, she asked herself the same question many amateur writing students do: Why am I enrolling in a writing program? In the end, it was her love of fiction, and her experiences in UVic's writing department,

that encouraged her to complete a writing degree.

"I had a feeling UVic was kind of special because it was the only fine arts writing department that I'd come across while looking at universities," she explains. "I'd done some interviews and articles in high school and originally thought I wanted to be a journalist; after spending a week studying fiction in Writing 100, though, I totally changed my mind."

Four years later, her talents and hard work have paid off with some prestigious—and well-paid—prizes:

this past year alone, she won first place in *The Fiddlehead's* 2011 Fiction Contest, and was a finalist for *The Malahat Review's* Open Season Awards. That story appears in *The Malahat Review's* Spring 2013 issue.

Klippenstein will begin work on an MFA in fiction at Cornell this September. She's also working on a longer manuscript whose pages will contain dinosaur bones, a potential revolution and, most importantly, lots of books.

READ FULL RING STORY ONLINE AT bit.ly/convo-write

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/spr13-convo

Additional profiles that appear online include:

Drew Commandeur, kinesiology

Commandeur’s path towards becoming a physiotherapist is a study in adrenaline, 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 his 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 led 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, BC and finish up her third and fourth-year courses at UVic.

For the love of science

UVic’s first neuroscience program graduate moved to Victoria to study—and she intends to stay.

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 man she met while working in a British pub.

A New Zealander, Patten, 28, has a BSc in neuropharmacology from the University of Otago. When Mark Macdonald moved back to Canada in 2009 and asked Patten to join him, she contacted her former advisor at Otago about what research opportunities were available in Victoria. He recommended Dr. Brian Christie, with whom Patten then got in touch.

“He said ‘Come on over, spend some time on the Island,’” Patten recalls. That was four-and-a-half years ago.

With Christie as supervisor, Patten has finished her PhD in neuroscience, researching the effects of Omega 3s 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 effectively, her research has found.

Christie says Patten has been an asset in the lab since the day she arrived. “Right away she was a self-starter and always exceeded my expectations on any of the tasks she was assigned,” he says. “In addition to her intelligence and fantastic work ethic, she also brought her unique personality to the lab and quickly became friends with almost everyone she met. Her friendly good-hearted nature is really something great to have in a work environment—it really helps to build team spirit.”

Patten’s days at the Medical Sciences Building were long, sometimes beginning at 8 a.m. and going until 7 at night or later. But worth it when results are tangible, she says.

Her research has found Omega 3s can reverse effects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in rats. An article she wrote discussing the results was recently published in the journal *Nutritional Biochemistry*, and another article has been accepted by *Neuroscience Letters*. As one of the top five per cent of doctoral students in




Patten. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

the country, she was invited to attend a national student health research forum held last June in Winnipeg.

Patten is also the UVic coordinator for the national Let’s Talk Science program, which promotes science education in children.

Patten loves Victoria—“so similar to New Zealand”—and plans to settle here with Macdonald, a UVic English major. “He wants to be a fiction writer. I write very scientifically. We’re different in that respect.”

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TAYLOR CONTINUED FROM P.1

disabilities and the human body.

The first edition of Braddon’s novel was a whodunnit; she then changed her novel to suit theatre audiences of the Victorian era. Taylor shows how audiences preferred to clearly see a villain’s guilt and then boo the character off the stage. He concludes that Braddon initially challenged readers of her novel not to judge people by physical appearance, yet her stage melodrama did just that—reinforcing stereotypical associations with one character who had a hunchback.

Taylor appreciates tangibility in 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 cheap-skate” (for good reason) in searching for grocery bargains and inexpensive food. He especially enjoys preparing Mexican and Indian cuisine, with fish tacos and homemade paneer 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.

Taylor says he had originally intended 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 adds that a doctorate would have put him “in a nation-wide market” but he would rather stay in Portland, where many higher-education teaching jobs are at community colleges.

Given Taylor himself worked his way to excellence after first being inspired by community college teachers, it is understandable he cannot wait to return—this time at the front, not just the head, of the class.

ELLIOTT PODIUM CONTINUED FROM P.1

rock, Quintalus, is also depicted. See <http://es481.geog.uvic.ca/node/62> for the full story.

“I love the diversity that you bring here,” said Marie Cooper to the audience of hundreds of Congress delegates and community members. “And I thank Charles for sharing his gifts with all of us. It is a great honour to unveil this podium.” Fred Charlie blessed the podium while John Elliott acknowledged it with an honouring song.

Reeta Tremblay, vice-president academic and provost, offered the podium on behalf of the entire academic community to First Peoples House, saying that it would be “a lasting reminder not only of UVic’s commit-

ment to Indigenous education and our strong partnerships with Indigenous communities, but of Congress 2013 at the University of Victoria.”

“In a way, carving this podium is a rededication of the 26-foot pole that I carved in 1990,” said Charles Elliott. “I have been able to bear witness to the fact that the university cherishes its relationship with First Nations people. I hope people feel good when they stand at the podium to say a few words—that’s the intention.”

The celebration ended with guests, delegates and community members joining in a circle dance on the lawn in front of the stage. Other festivities included a pit cook and Indigenous meal, an artisan fair, carving dem-

onstrations and special musical performances by Art Napoleon and Sandy Scofield.

“I really appreciate how our First Peoples strive to recognize visitors and welcome everyone with generosity and openness—how they acknowledge everyone here at Congress as their guests,” said Devi Mucina, a Congress delegate from Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax. “Being here is my way to acknowledge and accept their welcome, to be here with them on their land, in Victoria and at UVic.”

The celebration was the second of three signature community events at Congress 2013, hosted by UVic as part of its 50th anniversary.

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calendar highlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, visit the online calendar at events.uvic.ca

at the galleries

www.uvac.uvic.ca
250-721-6562

■ **Exhibit.** *The Long Now of Ulysses: Curating Literature after the Internet.* Until Aug. 12. How are interpretations of literature changing in a digital age? Using James Joyce's Ulysses as its tutor text, this student-curated exhibit engages that very question, with an emphasis on time, place, computation, and speculation. Mearns Centre/McPherson Library. Maltwood Prints and Drawings Gallery. 250-721-6562

■ **Exhibit.** *Core Samples: Visual Arts Faculty 1966–1986.* June 19 to Oct. 26. This exhibition presents the history of UVic's Visual Arts department from its earliest days as a breakaway department from the Faculty of Education, to its strong reputation for innovation in painting, printmaking, photography and sculpture. Legacy Art Gallery, Main Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

■ **Exhibit.** *Contemporaneity and Tradition in First Nations Serigraph prints from the Rickard and Smyth Collections.* August 16–18. Maltwood Prints and Drawings Gallery. 250-721-6562

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

■ **Music.** 8 p.m. *QuartetFestWest: Lafayette String Quartet.* UVic's quartet-in-residence, the Lafayette String Quartet perform the first concert in a series of four as part of QuartetFestWest. Additional events June 14, 18 and 21. Phillip T. Young Recital Hall (MacLaurin B125). Tickets \$12–\$25. 250-721-8634

■ **Other.** 8 p.m. *Astronomy Open House.* June 12, 19, 26. July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. Astronomy Open House is sponsored by the UVic Dept. of Physics & Astronomy. Wright Centre, 5th Flr. 250-721-7700

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 7:30 p.m. *Curators' Talk: To Reunite To Honour To Witness.* Curators' talk in conjunction with the exhibition on until June 15. Curated by Dr. Andrea Walsh, UVic and Dr. Robina Thomas, UVic. Legacy Art Gallery, Main Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

■ **Other.** *Operation Trackshoes.* Until June 16. A weekend-long provincial sports festival for people with developmental disabilities. For more information: 250-721-2233

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

■ **Music.** 8:00 p.m. *QuartetFestWest: Lafayette String Quartet & the Penderecki String Quartet perform Brahms, Shostakovich & Mendelssohn.* Phillip T. Young Recital Hall (MacLaurin B125). Tickets \$12–\$25. 250-721-8634



"Core Samples" exhibit: Don Harvey
Interference 1964

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

■ **Music.** 8 p.m. *QuartetFestWest: Student Concert.* QuartetFestWest culminates in a student recital by participants. Admission by donation. Phillip T. Young Recital Hall (MacLaurin B125). 250-721-8634

MONDAY, JULY 15

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 2:45 p.m. *Geographical Intelligence.* A lecture by Michael F. Goodchild, Assoc. Dir. of the Alexandria Digital Library, Dir. of the Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science, Chair of the National Center for Geographical Information and Analysis, and Dir. of space@ucsb. Michael F. Goodchild is Emeritus Prof. of Geography at the Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, where he also holds the title of Research Prof. Social Sciences & Math A110. 250-721-7327

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

■ **Lecture/Seminar.** 1:30 p.m. *Artist's Talk: Mowry Baden.* Mowry Baden will speak about his artistic practice during his tenure at UVic in conjunction with the Core Samples exhibition. Legacy Art Gallery, Main Gallery, 630 Yates St. 250-721-6562

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, student, 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."

As vice-president academic and provost from 2001 to 2010, Cassels was instrumental in setting the university's strategic direction and budget development. He oversaw the renewal and growth of the faculty complement (more than half of UVic's current faculty were hired during his term), and



Cassels. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

was a driving force behind the expansion of undergraduate and graduate student programs and services, as well as the development of Indigenous education and scholarship programs.

Cassels expects to bring that same commitment to strategic planning to his new position as president. "Honouring our vision is critical," he explains. "Clear strategic objectives help us identify and grasp opportunities—both to build on the strengths of our institution and take full advantage of the possibilities for improvement that are available to us."

Cassels also identified engagement in collegial, open communications as a strong contributing element in many of the university's past achievements. He plans to support and enhance that collegiality across campus during his tenure, both as a means to ensure institutional progress and as an important goal on its own merits.

For the past year and a half, Cassels has been teaching first-year and upper-year courses in the law school, a familiar role which he says provided him with a "renewed connection to students" and a "great reminder about both the joy and the importance of teaching."

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day in the life

Heather Richards might not be a name you recognize, but if you’ve been to a 50th anniversary event at UVic, you’ve seen her handiwork. For the past two years, Heather has been a constant force behind the celebrations. “I’m really passionate about UVic,” says Heather. Considering what she’s accomplished in the past few years, it’s no wonder why.

After receiving her MA in English from UVic in 2011, Heather jumped straight into a job with the university’s 50th Anniversary Organizational Team, first as an Event Assistant and then as an Event Coordinator. There’s a twinkle in her eye and an easy smile when she’s asked about the practical application of her thesis on theatre companies in early modern Lancashire—but the skills she developed as a UVic student have certainly come into play 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



The 50th Anniversary Organizational Team (L to R): Adam Taylor, Heather Richards and Cheryl Gollub. PHOTO: UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

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. There, 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 as an alumna.

As the anniversary comes to an end, Heather is still busy, archiving and documenting events for future celebrations. “I’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 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.

Congress 2013 a mammoth success

From scholarly debate to daily entertainment, fabulous food and even a 40,000-year-old woolly-mammoth tusk—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 impres-

sion 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-old mammoth tusk 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 and University Food Services had staff working 4 a.m. to midnight.

“Thank you to our executive for having the vision to invite Congress to 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.



Mammoth tusk on display. PHOTO: MITCH WRIGHT

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 the University of Victoria community

for this exceptional festival of arts and ideas,” says Antonia Maioni, president of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, organizers of Congress. “Our success is their success.”

Congress 2014 will be hosted by Brock University in Saint Catharines, Ontario.

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

ringers

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 3–7. 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 Dan Hogg. A digital media technician who specializes in film production, Hogg was invited to Cannes in May when his 10-minute film, *Floodplain*, was included in Telefilm Canada’s annual Not Short on Talent showcase. *Floodplain* 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. bit.ly/cannes-flood

Recent writing grads 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/eliza-granta). Earlier this spring, Robertson’s story “L’Étranger” was announced as one of five finalists in CBC’s 2013 Short Story Prize (online at bit.ly/eliza-etrange), and fellow writing alum Yasuko Thanh was named as a finalist for the Danuta Gleed Literary Award for her collection of short stories, *Floating Like the Dead*.



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