More than 1,400 students received bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the 22nd annual UW Bothell commencement ceremony, held June 16 at Hec Edmundson Pavilion, Alaska Airlines Arena, at the University of Washington Seattle campus.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Oscar Arias, two-time President of Costa Rica and Nobel Laureate. Arias is credited for successfully convening the presidents of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua in 1987 to agree to a peace agreement.

“I too am a member of the Class of 2013,” he told graduates after receiving an honorary degree from the University of Washington for his contributions to world peace. Arias asked graduates to teach the world how to bind the nation’s borders, to alleviate human suffering, and to teach the world how to use the power of technology to make a difference.

This year’s commencement ceremony was the biggest on record, but also the greenest. Graduates wore regalia made from 100% recycled post-consumer plastic bottles, saving about 20,000 bottles from reaching landfills.

Several individuals received honors during the 2013 Commencement ceremony.

2013 COMMENCEMENT HONORS

President’s Medalist
Eleanor Marsh
The President’s Medal recognizes the graduating senior with the most distinguished academic record and demonstrated achievements and success.

Eleanor Marsh graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing with a 3.94 GPA. Marsh graduated from Shoreline Community College with an RN degree in 1986 and has worked as a nurse in various capacities since then. She decided to return to school to pursue her BSN after years of watching patients in underserved communities struggle to gain access to effective, quality health care.

In the fall of 2013, Marsh will begin a master’s program in community health nursing at the University of Washington.

Emerging Leader Award
Tyrell Edwards
The Emerging Leader Award recognizes a graduate student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, has an excellent academic record and shows clear indication of outstanding future leadership.

Tyrell Edwards received a master of arts degree from the cultural studies program in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. In April, Edwards received a Fulbright award from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

At UW Bothell, Edwards founded an international student facilitators group that helps international students transition to life in the U.S. and to campus life. Edwards has also been active in student government and assorted campus committees. He started the Husky Pantry, which provides food staples to students who live in Husky Village.

Distinguished Teaching Award
Ron Tilden
Ron Tilden was recognized as the recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Teaching Award. Tilden has been a lecturer in the UW Bothell School of Business since 2007. He joined the faculty after a successful career in financial management in the technology sector.

At UW Bothell, Tilden played an integral role in launching the accounting degree option that accepted its first students in 2008. He also worked with students to launch Beta Alpha Psi, the highly successful honorary accounting organization which placed first in national competition in 2012.