A message from the Chair

Dear Geography Graduates:

You move forward into uncertain times. I know that is cliché, and I know that it is particularly uncertain now, but remember that all life changes are uncertain. We never know for sure what will happen. The key is that you have gained skills to be flexible, to be adaptable, to be self-reliant.

Another point I want to make is that, even now as much that was organized has been shaken up and much that we know has changed so rapidly, many spaces have appeared into which one is freer to define what you want. It seems like options have closed down in the last six months, but real options have opened up. You have the skills to take advantage of new options and to make your own way. The path you will follow is going to look very different from the path your parents carved. It will be your own. Define and take hold of your emerging identity.

I hope you have had rewarding and stimulating time during your education. Reflect upon what you have seen and learned while at UVic, think about the things you know now that you didn’t before, and think about how your ability to look at the world has evolved. You have come far, and yours is a major achievement, one to be proud of. We are proud of you. Take care and good luck with your next steps. Please let us know of where you go and what you do. We would like to hear from you as you live your own adventure!

All the best,

David E Atkinson
Congratulations and best wishes on your future ventures. Stay in touch and stop by the department any time. We look forward to hearing about all the amazing things you will accomplish.

Jill Krezoski
Dear 2020 geography grads. I am so honoured to have learned with and worked with you as you tackled the challenges and triumphs of your undergrads. Most often I met you in first year and then got to see you grow through to this exciting transition of graduation. I wish you deeply satisfying lives in the ways that are most meaningful to you.

Kinga

Menu
It has been a wonderful experience to teach you! I wish you all many successes in your future adventures.

Cheers

Ian O’Connell
Congratulations to you all on your graduation from the University of Victoria! The world has changed considerably since you began your journey with us. I am so proud of you all for sticking with it to the end, under challenging circumstances and in extraordinary times. Whether you continue with your academic career, prepare to enter the workforce, or take a much needed and well deserved break, I applaud your efforts and achievements so far, and hope for more success in your future, whatever it holds.

To all who took remote sensing labs with me, it was a pleasure teaching you. The lab rooms will sit empty for the coming semester as we move online. This will be an interesting adjustment - I will miss seeing your faces :)

Best of luck for the future. Always be kind to one another, and take care of yourselves. Please feel free to keep in touch!

Cheers
Terri Evans
Congratulations on your wonderful achievements. The resilience you have demonstrated will no doubt stand you in good stead for life. May your future path bring you joy whatever you choose to do and wherever you choose to go.

Very best,

Teresa Dawson
Congratulations on finishing your degree in Geography. As chair over the last 5 years I have had the privilege of getting an overview of the breadth of your engagement during your time at UVic. I have been so impressed not only by your academic performance, but also by the many other activities you have been involved in and the excellence that you have demonstrated. These activities include social activism, excellence in Co-op activities, extension of field school, community mapping and individual research projects into bettering the communities and environment around you! I am convinced that as a group you will develop into the leaders we need to create a better and more sustainable life on this planet. I wish you all the best and remember to keep an open mind and never stop learning and exploring the world around you!

Johan Feddema
Dear graduating GEOG class of 2020,
Congratulations. You made it this far!
I try to teach students to be critically optimistic
sharing this quotation:

If you look at the science about what is happening
on earth and aren’t pessimistic, you don’t
understand data. But if you meet the people who
are working to restore this earth and the lives of
the poor, and you aren’t optimistic, you haven’t
got a pulse. What I see everywhere in the world
are ordinary people willing to confront despair,
power, and incalculable odds in order to restore
some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to
this world.

- Paul Hawken

As you move on from us,
may you be well-served to
counter despair, power, and
incalculable odds to bring
some semblance of grace,
justice, and beauty to the
world.

Cam Owens
Dear Graduating Class of 2020,
Was always a pleasure to learn with all of you! Keep up your passion and dedication to helping the communities and ecosystems near and far!

Sophia Carodenuto
Dear 2020 Graduates,

Congratulations to all of your achievements, all your hard work, the creativity and endurance you have put into your studies and research, culminating now in your graduation ceremony. Being a graduate student is a very special condition and a privilege in your life. I hope you have enjoyed the experience at UVic, that you have expanded your horizons, deepened your critical thinking skills and that thus you are better prepared for the responsibilities and exciting discoveries to come with the next steps in your life. I wish you a bright future and a fulfilled life journey to come.

Jutta Gutberlet
Congratulations to you all on this important milestone and life achievement. It has been an honour to share in your learning journey and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. I trust you will all make a powerful impact in your community and beyond.

Thanks,
Ready, steady, launch! Up and at 'em guys and thanks for your engagement in Geography at UVic. Keep it up.

Dr Philip Dearden
Congratulations on achieving your undergraduate degree! I am confident that your GEOG degree will equip you well in the next phase of your life, in your career or further education, as well as in your community. I wish you the best of luck, and remember you are always a part of the GEOG family.

Cheers,

Randy
Listen and learn. You know a lot, but there is so much more to discover. Be confident. You can be a positive person in our society. Travel to new places. Different experiences with people and places will bring diversity into conversations and bring new perspectives to the table.

Shannon Fargey
Congratulations Graduates 2020
I wish you all the best in the future.
Boa Sorte e Felicidades!!!!

Maycira Costa