Message from Program Director

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! Unless you've been to a graduation of a friend or family member at UVM in a previous year, you probably don't know that before the ceremony starts you lineup by your major on the green between Howe Library and the Davis Center. You line up by major so that as a group you can process to the stage, receive your diploma, shake hands with the Dean and me, and have your photograph taken. But before that ceremony begins, we line up all graduates by their major and then within that, in alphabetical order. It is one of the most meaningful times of the year for me to walk down that line of graduating environmental science majors and shake hands and congratulate each one of you personally. Things are way too chaotic once you're up on stage and there's a lot of cheering and parents jostling for pictures but in those moments before the ceremony starts, when we're just lined up together as a group for the first and last time, I enjoy so much being able to congratulate you individually for what you've achieved. I personally will really miss the opportunity to do that this year. Some people predict that your cohort are going to have the most amazing next decade of life, because if Covid-19 has taught us anything, it's that we now all realize how amazing life's moments are. You lost this one milestone in life - college graduation - but you will move forward to make many precious memories and savor them all the more, because you know how fleeting, tenuous, and fragile our time is. Move towards your dreams with optimism and enthusiasm. Use what you've learned here at UVM to make the world a better place. Most of all, to quote the poet Philip Larkin, "We should be careful / Of each other, we should be kind / While there is still time." Congratulations from your environmental science faculty!