

Dear Graduating ESSer,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, please accept our joyful congratulations on your graduation! Today is a defining moment for you and your fellow graduates as you take your experience with us here in ESS into the next steps in your life. You, your family and your friends can take great pride in this accomplishment.

The ceremonies today formally induct you into the community of scientists. We honor and celebrate all of your hard work and persistence in your studies, and confer upon you a degree which ties you to us as a permanent member of the earth sciences community. Wherever you choose to take your passion and talents, never lose sight of your training as a scientist. Bring your unique perspective, analytical abilities, and scientific curiosity into your life's work -- regardless of where life takes you.

The Department of Earth and Space Sciences has existed in various forms for over 100 years. During this time, we have been fortunate to have set many promising, talented, passionate, and curious individuals on their life's pathway. Today you join that long tradition of excellence. Our department is built on our love of learning and exploration, a commitment to collaboration and growth, and an ability and interest in grasping the larger perspective. You and your fellow graduates have been key to our success as an educational and research institution. University of Washington Earth Science programs are ranked among the highest in the world. This is your achievement, just as much as it is the achievement of the faculty and staff, and the students that have come before you.

As you move on, we have every confidence that you are prepared for your future and your contribution to a diverse and dynamic world. We take great pride in you and look forward to watching you take your education and training as a scientist out into the world. Please keep in touch. Let us know about and celebrate your successes and growth. Celebrate your achievements today and reflect on your accomplishments. Acknowledge your community and family, and all the supporters who have helped you to attain your degree. We wish you every success and joy life has to offer.

Sincerely,

Eric Steig

Alumnus, Professor, and Chair

PHD, University of Washington Geological Sciences, 1996

