From: Tom Sullivan, President
To: UVM Faculty, Staff and Students
Re: Commencement 2015

Although the 213th Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 18, 2014 is a number of months away, plans are under way for the 214th Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 17, 2015. An important aspect of the ceremony is the awarding of honorary degrees and the delivery of the Commencement address. On behalf of the Honorary Degree Advisory Committee, I invite and welcome your participation in the process by submitting nominations of potential honorary degree recipients and persons to be considered to deliver the Commencement address.

The Honorary Degree Advisory Committee will begin the work of identifying those candidates who best meet the established criteria. It is the University’s President’s authority to select the Commencement speaker, in consultation with the Committee, who may also be recommended to receive an honorary degree.

Honorary Degree and Commencement speaker nominations may be submitted online at Commencement 2015. In addition to information on the process of submitting a nomination, the website contains the criteria considered in conferring an honorary degree and recommending a Commencement speaker along with areas considered when evaluating nominations. If you would prefer to mail your nomination, please write to Honorary Degree Advisory Committee, c/o Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations, 347 Waterman Building, 85 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT, 05405. The deadline for nominations for Commencement 2015 is Monday, February 24, 2014. Your letter should state how the nominee fits the nomination criteria and why the University should honor the nominee in this way. Please also include biographical information, whether the nominee has connections to UVM or Vermont, and the nominee’s current contact information, as well as yours. As the Committee is tasked to narrow nominations to a list of 3 – 5 nominees for recommendation, it is important that nominators keep their nominations confidential. The Committee may also recommend that nominees be awarded the honorary degree at a December Commencement.

Please accept my gratitude on behalf of the Honorary Degree Advisory Committee for your involvement in this important process.