To: The UVM Community

From: Tom Sullivan, President

Re: Season’s Wishes and Reflections

As the semester draws to a close, I wish to extend my heartfelt wishes for a peaceful and meaningful holiday season.

This holiday season presents an opportunity for each of us to pause and consider our neighbors and community members, and people across the country and the globe. Presently, we are in a time of tension and uncertainty given the many conflicts and violence in the world. Accordingly, as noted in the University’s communication of November 13, it is important for us to address and resist instincts that create fear and promote stereotyping and harmful behavior. Instead, let us reach out and support those who are hurting, those who are less fortunate, and those who are innocent targets of discrimination, bigotry, hostility, and hatred. This is our collective and individual responsibility as members of a vibrant and caring educational community, as reflected in the values expressed in the University’s statement, Our Common Ground. These values are Respect, Integrity, Innovation, Openness, Justice, and Responsibility. It is a time also for leaders across the world to renew their commitment for peace and reconciliation that promotes dignity, humanity and understanding among people.

I hope this special time of the year gives you the chance to enjoy time with family and friends. May it be a time to stop and reflect, given our shared values, on all that makes the University of Vermont such a unique and special community. And, may it be a time for each of us to recommit to promoting a just and caring world, one without fear and injustice.

Leslie and I wish you all the best this holiday and in the New Year!