To: UVM Community

From: Tom Sullivan, President

RE: Professor Emeritus of Political Science Alan Wertheimer

It is with deep sadness that I inform the University of Vermont community of the passing of Professor Emeritus of Political Science Alan Wertheimer, who joined the University of Vermont faculty in 1968. He served the University for 37 years, as one of the most beloved teachers and preeminent scholars. In 1992, he was named the John H. McCullough Professor of Political Science, an appointment he held until retiring in 2005. He spent his entire academic career at the University of Vermont after graduating from Case Western Reserve University in 1968.

Professor Emeritus Wertheimer served the University in numerous leadership roles including Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Political Science Department, Chair of the Political Science Department for nine years, and Assistant Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. He was named a University Scholar for the academic year 1995-1996. In 2003, he received the Dean’s Lecture Award. He held visiting professorships at the University of San Diego and at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He was also a Fellow of the School of Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. After retiring from the University, he became a visiting scholar at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and was soon hired as an NIH Senior Research Scholar, a position held to the end of his life.

Professor Emeritus Wertheimer was a highly acclaimed academic in the area of political philosophy. He was an internationally recognized scholar who published in the leading journals and wrote three seminal books: Coercion (Princeton University Press, 1987); Exploitation (Princeton University Press, 1996); Consent to Sexual Relations (Cambridge University Press, 2003); and Rethinking the Ethics of Clinical Research (Oxford University Press, 2010).

We extend our deepest condolences to his wife and our colleague Susan Wertheimer and their children, Rachel, Rebecca, and Joel, along with other family members. Our sincere thoughts of care and sympathy are also extended to Professor Wertheimer’s friends and faculty who were close to him. A campus memorial service is planned for Friday, April 24, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in North Lounge of Billings Library.