From: Tom Sullivan, President

To: UVM Faculty, Staff, and Students

Re: Thanksgiving Wishes

Soon we will take a well-deserved break from this busy fall semester to celebrate Thanksgiving, a time for reflection and gratitude. In writing this message, my last as president, I am filled with thanks for the opportunity to lead and watch this unique UVM community grow in quality and distinction.

Together, we are putting into action the core values and principles that guide us, as we continue developing our capacities for living in a diverse and ever-changing world. Respect, integrity, innovation, openness, justice, and responsibility—the tenets of Our Common Ground—guide us in growing into our full potential as members of our University community, and of the many other communities in which each of us is involved.

In proclaiming this holiday in 1963, as our president must do each year, President John F. Kennedy asked the people of our nation to bring the spirit of this holiday to life through action. He wrote: “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

In this, his last holiday proclamation, President Kennedy offered guidance for making our aspirations the truths by which we live. May we each carry these words of wisdom in our hearts, whatever our traditions, beliefs, and circumstances, as we are thankful for our family, friends, and that which is meaningful and has value to each of us.

Leslie and I wish you all a memorable and relaxing holiday break.

With thanks to each of you and deep appreciation for our UVM community,