To: University of Vermont Staff

From: Tom Sullivan, President

Re: Fall Welcome

Welcome to the 2015 fall term at the University of Vermont! And a warm welcome to the Class of 2019! It is always a pleasure to celebrate at our Convocation and Twilight Ceremony the beginning of a new and exciting journey with our incoming class. Many thanks to the faculty, students, and staff who worked hard this summer in preparation for the new academic year. I look forward to a great deal of rewarding and collaborative work with all of you – our UVM campus community – as we advance the University in the coming year.

This fall promises to be an exciting time at UVM as we witness the historic transformation of the University’s central campus. Early this summer, Chittenden, Buckham, and Wills student residences and Angell Hall were taken down to make way for the construction of the STEM Complex, the new First Year Residence Hall, and the UVM Medical Center’s new Patient Care Facility. Information, updates, and live webcams showing up-to-the-minute progress of these major expansion projects are available on the Building UVM - Investing in Quality web site. These state-of-the-art buildings will make it possible for the University to offer students and faculty the highest quality facilities for teaching, learning, and research in the STEM and Health disciplines, while enhancing the college experience and engagement for nearly 700 first-year students.

The University is distinctive in many ways, including the numerous cultural opportunities available to students, faculty, and staff each year. Please check the UVM web site for upcoming events in the Burack Lecture Series, the Marsh Professor Program, the Fleming Museum, and the Lane Series, among others. I also hope you will mark your calendars for two very special campus events: on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 the First-Year Summer Read lecture by renowned author and journalist Anne Fadiman and on Thursday, November 12, 2015 the George D. Aiken Lecture by distinguished environmental historian William Cronon. We are delighted to bring these remarkable authors to UVM and to share their work with our community.

October 2, 2015 marks another milestone in the history of the University of Vermont when we announce on Homecoming Weekend and Family Weekend the launch of our largest fundraising campaign ever. The Campaign will touch every corner of the University focusing on what makes the University great – its people - by enhancing academic excellence for all and by providing the needed financial support for our students. On that day, there will be several major gifts to the University of Vermont announced that highlight the excitement and enthusiasm alumni and friends have for our University. At 3:00 p.m. in the Olin Atrium of the Davis Center we will be hosting the campus celebration marking the kick off of the Campaign. I hope you will
make every effort to join your fellow members of the University community in marking this historic event.

Each year the faculty, students, and staff at UVM receive national recognition for their outstanding achievements across the disciplines. I am continually impressed by the accolades, honors, and grants that are regularly awarded to the members of this talented and dedicated academic community. This past May, we were proud to share a selection of these substantial accomplishments in The President's 2014 - 2015 Annual Report. If you have not done so already, please take a look at what we achieved as a community last year. I hope we all will draw inspiration and renewed commitment from the wealth of good news in this report!

During our 214th Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 17, the University reached an important and impressive milestone when we awarded our 100,000th bachelor’s degree. As leaders in higher education, our impact increase as our UVM family continue to grow. I am proud of all that we have accomplished together and anticipate another year of innovation, creativity, and success at UVM.

It is my privilege to serve this venerable institution and to build the future of this University with all of you.

With every best wish for a great year,

Tom Sullivan,
President