To: UVM Community

From: Tom Sullivan

RE: Commencement Speaker, May 2017

Although May might seem far away right now, Commencement weekend will be here before we know it! We are honored to announce that writer and journalist James Fallows will be the Commencement speaker this May.

A longtime writer and national correspondent for The Atlantic and the author of 10 books—including National Defense, for which he won the National Book Award—Mr. Fallows writes about defense policy, immigration, politics, economics, technology, and Asian trade, among other subjects. He also received an Emmy in 2010 as host of a documentary series “Doing Business in China.”

As a national correspondent for The Atlantic for the past 35 years, Mr. Fallows has reported extensively from outside the United States, including from Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, and Beijing. He was the chief White House speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter for the first two years of Carter’s presidency, the youngest person ever to hold that position. Since 2013 Mr. Fallows has been traveling across the United States with his wife, writer Deborah Fallows, for their American Futures project. This multiyear voyage exploring the people, organizations, and ideas reshaping the United States is the subject of his next book.

He, in addition, has served as the editor of US News and World Report and has taught at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Chicago, and the University of Sydney. I am pleased that Mr. Fallows will be with us on Commencement Day 2017 to share his timely perspectives from his distinguished and storied career.