Dear Members of the A&S Community,

It is my sad duty to announce that Jesper Rosenmeier, Fletcher Professor of English Emeritus, died suddenly on Thursday, April 3, 2014. Although officially retired, Professor Rosenmeier was teaching a seminar on Early American Literature this semester.

Professor Rosenmeier received his A.B. in English from Princeton in 1957 and his Ph.D. in History of American Civilization from Harvard. He began his long tenure at Tufts in 1962 as an instructor, and over the next forty years dedicated himself to teaching Tufts students as an assistant professor, professor, and program administrator. In 1980, he founded the American Studies Program at Tufts, and served several terms as program director between 1980 and 1992. He retired in 2004, but as many of you know, Jesper remained a valued member of the English department, continuing to teach the occasional course at Tufts. He was, in fact, on his way to class prior to his passing.

As a scholar and teacher, Professor Rosenmeier received numerous fellowships, grants and prizes. He was widely published and participated and presented at numerous workshops throughout his long career. At Tufts, he served on numerous departmental, program and university committees and subcommittees, including the Experimental College Board in 1970-72, which produced the proposal for the Freshman Explorations Program. In 1993 he chaired the committee and wrote the proposal to establish the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and served on the Educational Policy Committee from 1992-1997.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to know Professor Rosenmeier and to work with him admired and respected him for his great enthusiasm and energy, for his passionate commitments as a teacher and a scholar of Puritanism and Early American Literature, as the founder of the American Studies Program at Tufts, and as a pioneer in the field of environmental studies. His regular presence on campus makes his loss that much more painful, but his continuing evolution as a scholar and teacher—just before his death, he was planning a new course in environmental studies—makes his example that much more inspiring.

Professor Rosenmeier is survived by five children, including Leah Morine Rosenmeier, who graduated from Tufts as an American Studies major in the early 1990s. His wife, Rosamund Rosenmeier, was an English teacher and a poet who died in 2011. Information about plans for a memorial service will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Joanne Berger-Sweeney
Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences