



Durham
University

Development & Alumni Relations

Shaped by the past, creating the future

23 February 2013

Dear Friend of Durham,

It has been a year now since I became Chancellor and I have spent much of it amazed. I thought I knew Durham. I thought I knew what I was getting into, but I have been stunned by how much is going on at this University.

But of course you will have trodden this road before me. Between first coming to the University as an applicant or interviewee and then going out into the world as one of our great band of alumni, you too will have discovered that behind the University's reputation, behind the magnificence of the Castle and the Cathedral, lies a wonderful, multifarious universe. There are the wooded riverbanks of the Wear, the rows of terraced houses, the mining villages with their deep friendliness, the colleges, each with its unique community and culture, whether on the hill, in the City centre or on the banks of the Tees, and of course, the vast variety of thinking and discovery that goes on in every lab, lecture theatre and seminar room.

What amazes me, as I am sure it amazed you, is the range of activity that takes place across this University. Something exciting is happening everywhere. Somewhere in every college students are practicing music, preparing a play, playing sport, while in every department researchers are solving everything from the mysteries of the big bang to legal conundrums, through to the practicalities of turning discoveries into new ways of ensuring social and individual well-being. And, as a local lad, it makes me proud to see how hard the University is working on its comprehensive outreach programme. This aims to convince the best and the brightest students in schools and colleges across the region that they too should come and experience the wonders of a Durham education. It is a remarkable institution that just keeps giving, and I do not feel I am anywhere near understanding it yet.

This is why as Chancellor I want to use the Chancellor's Appeal as a way of supporting all these amazing activities across the whole University. My brilliant predecessor Bill Bryson championed a specific cause each year, but, having thought hard about how best I can contribute to this wonderful institution, I have decided I would like to ask you to support the broader institutional mission of the University. My message is simply to ask you to give something, even a little, to mark your support for the University and the work it does.

Of course, if you would like to direct your gift to your college or to your department, or to sport, music or the arts, or to a specific project, you can use the ethos of 'Your Gift, Your Choice' to tick the relevant boxes on the enclosed form. But, if you would like to support *everything* that Durham does, please consider giving a gift of £10, £50, or even £100 to the Chancellor's Appeal. You can give online at www.dunelm.org.uk/chancellorsappeal.

I hope you will join me in helping the University to amaze everyone who encounters it.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Allen'.

Sir Thomas Allen
Chancellor