



Merry Christmas
From
University College



Dear Alumni,

I am writing to wish you a very Merry Christmas on behalf of everyone at University College.

2016 has been a very busy year for the College, with much to reflect on: a growing and thriving student body; an increasing proportion of postgraduate students from all over the world; engaging activities from sport to drama and music; and wonderful lectures from leading academics and practitioners from across the globe. We are indebted to our alumni for your continuing support and contributions to Castle which makes much of this possible.

As we enter the New Year, it is a time to reflect on family and friends who are not just with us, but also those who have passed away. In this connection, I would like to mention especially Eva Schumacher Reid, our former Vice-Master who had a huge impact on students through the years and on everyone around her.

Before the beginning of term, the Castle Society hosted its Seventieth Reunion. Many congratulations for reaching this age! We thoroughly enjoyed having alumni visit and encourage you all to come up for the reunions in the future. Contact your College friends and revisit Castle. You are always welcome. This coming year's Castle Society gathering will fall on the weekend of the 15th to the 17th September.

The beginning of the 2016/17 academic year has been an exciting one for the College. The JCR celebrated the start of the year with their Ladies Night Ball themed around 'Symposium: Myths and Legends of Ancient Greece', and the MCR will host their Castle Charity Ball on January the 28th, called 'The Stroke of Midnight'. Our student-led executive committees continue to impress us with their passion for the College. The JCR has shown incredible vitality this year, and I am always impressed by their community work in the form of Castle Community Action. To quote Catriona Duffy, this year's CCA President, their aim is to 'put Durham Castle back in the heart of the community.' Our students are excelling at this. The MCR are breaking new ground in promoting Castle as a centre of academic learning and scholarship. Moreover, they will be hosting their inaugural inter-disciplinary Conference in the Summer.



The 1072 Club continues to grow, and I cannot thank enough those alumni who contribute to the College in such a generous way. We have many appeals at the College to help our students and to ensure the upkeep of our magnificent castle. If you would like to find out more information or donate, please visit www.castlealumni.uk.



We will be looking forward to having the chance to see our alumni in 2017 at events across the country:

- In February we are hosting an exclusive Heritage Dinner at the Castle. This fundraising event, on the 10th, is the first of its kind. We hope that you can join us for that evening.
- On February the 17th, we will be hosting our annual London Reunion at Smith & Williamson, 25 Moorgate.
- We will also be travelling to Leeds on the 24th Of March for a drinks reception at the Quebecs Hotel.
- There will also alumni events in Bristol and Edinburgh with dates to be confirmed.

I very much hope that you will consider attending and please check our alumni website for more details, or contact our Alumni Relations Officer at castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk.

If you are planning on visiting Durham, please let us know. We always enjoy welcoming returning alumni to College.

Once again, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

David Held





University College Alumni

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