



FOREWORD FROM OUR CHANCELLOR

When I joined our university as Chancellor in 1997, it was at a turning point. A brand-new campus – London's first for over 50 years – was about to begin construction on the waterfront of the Royal Docks. This ambitious programme of development, supported by EU and regional government, was nevertheless being attempted at a risky time, with a legacy of under-resourcing across the sector forcing higher education institutions to tighten their belts and in some cases merge.

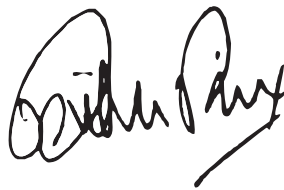
Looking back ten years on, I am impressed by how far we have come. Due to the foresight of our Board of Governors, the dynamic leadership of senior management, and above all, the dedication and sheer hard work of our staff, in both academic and support roles, the University of East London has grown to become a global community of over 20,000 students from 120 countries worldwide. This transformation has also forged a community confident in its capabilities, and increasingly recognised for its success regionally, nationally and internationally.

This new confidence is borne out in recent audits and performance indicators, and perhaps most significantly for our future success, it is increasingly reflected in the way that influential people in the worlds of government, business and academia, as well as schools, colleges and our wider community, now talk about our university, what we stand for and what we have achieved.

A decade ago, we set out to become a dynamic, innovative university, proud of our diversity and committed to the success of our students. It has been an eventful and sometimes difficult road to travel, and each day throws up new challenges. This journey continues, and we can be proud of how far we have come together. I believe that today we can be confident that our distinctive vision and values, and the way we are transforming the horizons and life chances of thousands of people in our community, are winning the respect of peers and partners alike.

Every year, it is my privilege to stand on the stage of the Barbican Concert Hall at a series of award ceremonies, and shake the hands of many thousands of students graduating from UEL – a number that is growing every year as more and more people choose to study with us. These events are also a wonderful opportunity to thank and to honour our increasing number of distinguished friends and supporters. I am sure many of you reading this review will have attended one or more of these events, or will have spent some time at one of our campuses.

Whether you are a long-standing partner or a new friend, I hope that what you read in these pages inspires you to think about UEL in new ways, and that you will gain not only a picture of an eventful year, but a sense of how far we have come, and our confidence for the future.



The Lord Rix (Chancellor) Kt CBE DL