

(Letterhead:)

(Image of blue banner waving in the wind)

## ***THE CAMPAIGN FOR GALLAUDET'S FUTURE***

June 12, 2006

(Title First-name Last-name)

(Address)

Dear (First name):

As a former student at Gallaudet, I hope that the University continues to make you proud and that our efforts add to the value of your college degree. At Gallaudet, we are proud of where we have been together and where we are going.

It cannot go unnoticed, however, that it has been a challenging time at Gallaudet recently; the controversy surrounding the naming of Dr. Jane K. Fernandes as president has stirred up strong feelings on the Gallaudet campus as well as for many alumni and friends of Gallaudet around the country.

It is evident that Dr. Fernandes' appointment as the ninth president brought to the surface a number of critical issues and concerns which must be addressed by the University: diversity, social justice, leadership, and communication. Change is an important part of any institution or organization and, at times, change can be painful and difficult. I am confident, however, that Gallaudet will become stronger because of these issues brought forth during the past few weeks—stronger for our students and stronger for all of us.

In this time of presidential transition and possibility, the University has come together for *The Campaign for Gallaudet's Future*. I hope you will join your former classmates, teachers, faculty, staff, and current students to support these efforts and commit to the ideals that make this institution so special to us all.

*The Campaign for Gallaudet's Future* is an ambitious effort to raise \$31 million for two significant projects that will redefine Gallaudet and what it means to be deaf in our society—the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center (SLCC) and the I. King Jordan Chair in Leadership. To date, we have raised more than \$20 million, but we still have a long way to go to achieve our goal!

The James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center will provide new opportunities for scholarship and research. It will house the American Sign Language and Deaf Studies;

Communication Studies; Government and History; Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences; Linguistics, and Sociology departments. Having them share space will inspire greater interactive learning experiences between students and professors from diverse departments. The SLCC will be devoted to education, research, and service. Can you imagine the great things that your department will be able to do in this new space?

The I. King Jordan Chair in Leadership will not only recognize Dr. Jordan's 19 years of service as president of Gallaudet, it will provide opportunities for leaders and scholars to courageously confront complex and often uncomfortable issues such as literacy for deaf people in developing countries. In short, this Chair will open the doors for alumni to change the world in ways that wouldn't have been possible in the past!

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share with you our excitement. I hope you will support us in *The Campaign for Gallaudet's Future*.

Sincerely,

(Signed: Patsy D. Bowman)

Patsy Bowman

Class of 1977