

The Installation of the Chancellor



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES



The Installation of the Chancellor of the University of South Wales

Rt Revd and Rt Hon Lord Williams
of Oystermouth PC FRSA FRSL

14 April 2014





Professor Julie Lydon
Vice-Chancellor

Vice-Chancellor's Welcome

Welcome to the University of South Wales on a day of tremendous celebration for us.

Today is a celebration, both of who we are and what we believe to be important. The installation of a Chancellor is, of course, a moment of great academic ceremony, but it is also a fundamental reassertion of our values. In Rowan Williams we invite to head our University a scholar of major intellectual weight, proud identity, and shared values of learning and social justice.

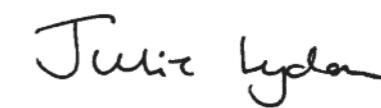
I believe that this would be a proud day for the leaders of business and the professions who founded the colleges of higher learning that grew into our University, for today is only the latest milestone in 170 years of a proud educational heritage.

Our University adds value to our communities, our economy, and most fundamentally, to the lives of those who study within its vibrant academic community. Whether we are educating graduates for the changing world of work and industry or providing policy advice to government, pushing the boundaries of applied research or using those discoveries to address the great choices that face our society, the University of South Wales is a major force for good in the south Wales region and in our distinctive international partnerships.

There are many symbols today. Represented in the congregation are people from every part of life in south Wales. The presence of our international students, representing their colleagues from over 120 countries, shows the local roots and global connections of our University. The presentation of a new mace, designed by one of our academics and realised by our partners in industry, demonstrates the link with employers that runs through our DNA.

The musical and poetic contributions, commissioned in partnership for today's ceremony, include our award-winning Professor of poetry collaborating with a young graduate composer, and a seasoned composer from our valleys with performances from students of our Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, demonstrating just some of the artistic and cultural talent within the University of South Wales. And the contribution to our society and country of the distinguished people we honour today demonstrates the reach of the University's commitment to adding value to people's lives, to the economy, and to the communities around us.

We are delighted that you are able to join us on this special day. You are most welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Lydon".

Professor Julie Lydon
Vice-Chancellor



The Chancellor's Reflections

This is in so many ways a special occasion, and it is so particularly for me.

It is in many senses a coming home, in a very personal sense. In a lifetime I have spent many years outside Wales, but my roots are as firmly here as the day I left as a Swansea schoolboy to begin my own study as an undergraduate, and the day some decades later that I exchanged my Welsh role as Monmouth's Bishop and Wales's Archbishop, for Canterbury. I return today to Wales for what I believe are the very best of reasons: to take up my next role in Wales's largest university and one of her civic and economic society's great assets.

Intellectually and philosophically, I am also coming home. It is one of the deepest honours for a scholar to become the formal head of a University, and it is for me a source of both profound personal pleasure and a sense of quiet pride to have been invited by the University of South Wales to be its Chancellor. This is a vigorous academic community of many nations and beliefs brought together by a shared commitment to the transformation of lives through knowledge and education.

I know from personal experience that the higher education this University provides is valued tremendously by graduates and their employers, and the University's success in fitting its students for the world of work is a source of justified pride. Beyond this, there is a great deal being said and written about the public responsibilities of the university these days; and it is usually in terms of how universities demonstrate public 'impact' as well as how they reach out to local and national communities.

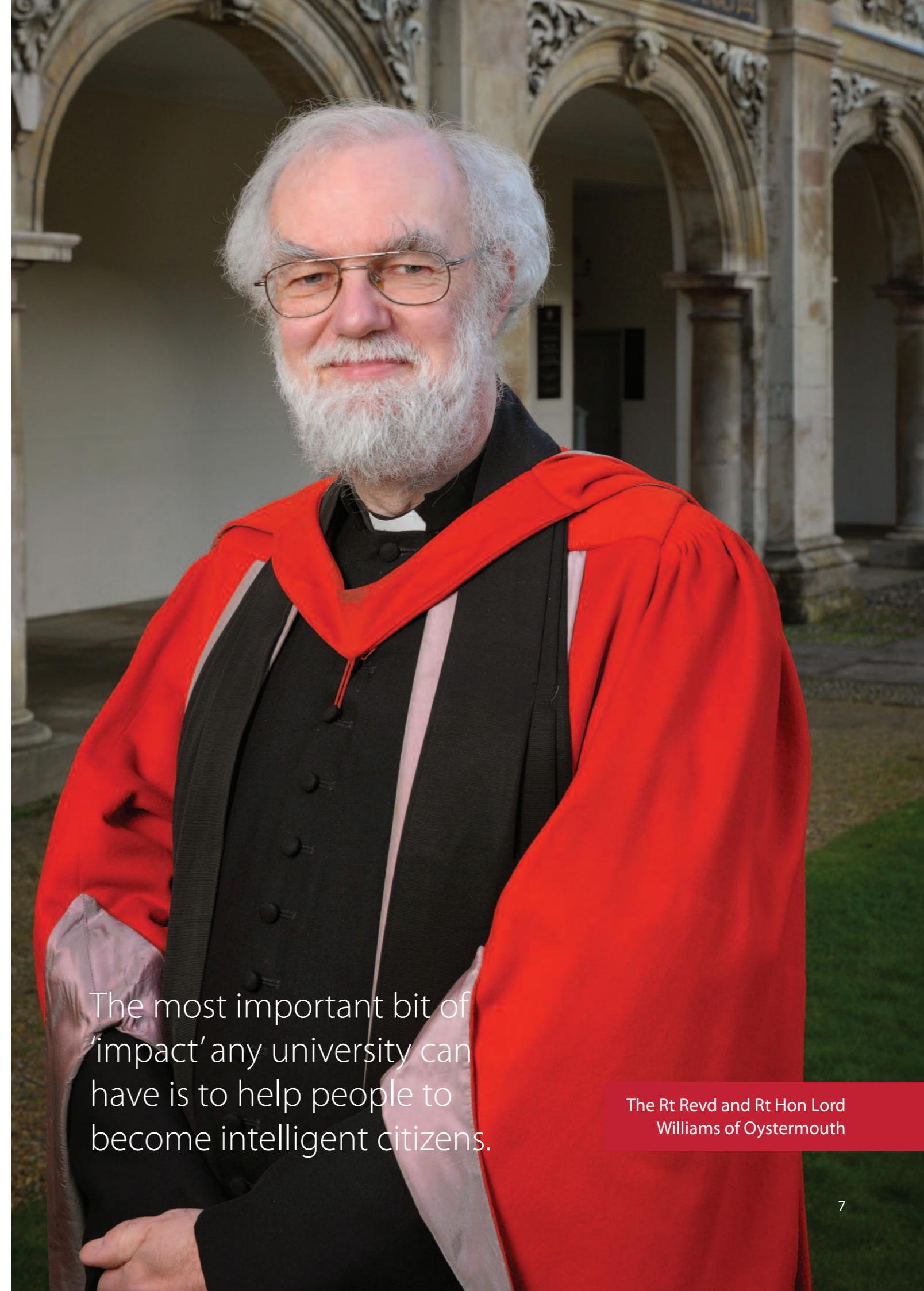
Some have been scornful of certain subjects offered for study by newer universities and talk of an erosion of intellectual seriousness; but I suspect that there are no inappropriate subjects, only inappropriate or inadequate methods of teaching.

Our deepest function is universal, and is not confined to one subject or another: it lies fundamentally in educating citizens who will ask constructively critical questions in public life, who will understand the forces that shape it and know how seriously (or not) to take the confused mass of propaganda and fashion that swirls around in the overpopulated information culture of our age.

The most important bit of 'impact' any university can have is to help people to become intelligent citizens, and that means helping them to see what critical argument looks like, to see what genuine thinking is, and to explore great issues in an atmosphere of respect and positive expectation.

The University of South Wales is both a substantial presence in Britain and in the global higher education community, and a major force for positive change in Wales. The traditional role of the Chancellor is to represent the University, to preside at our great occasions of academic celebration, and to act as a voice for the timeless values of a university itself. I look forward to doing all of this energetically as Chancellor of the University of South Wales. It gives me tremendous pleasure to be with you all as we embark on the next chapter in our University's story.

Rowan Williams



The most important bit of 'impact' any university can have is to help people to become intelligent citizens.

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Lord Williams of Oystermouth

The new University Mace

Deriving from a weapon used as a symbol of authority, the ceremonial mace is a highly ornamented staff of metal or wood, carried by a mace-bearer. It represents the status of a sovereign or major institution in a civic ceremony, or in the conduct of legislative or executive business. In the academic context, it is a symbol of the University's authority to award degrees and convene major events such as the Awards Congregation.

A new mace has been designed especially for the University of South Wales by lecturer and award-winning artist Jeremy Spencer, and manufactured with a team of engineers and apprentices at GE Aviation Wales, supported by local specialist manufacturing companies. The mace is presented in public for the first time at today's ceremony, and brings together modern design and materials with the tradition of the academic mace.

The Designer explains: "The double helix of the ceremonial mace design is a symbol of education and industry coming together to work towards academic excellence. Its two elements of carbon and steel reflect the great industrial heritage of south Wales, which have always had strong links with education. The manufacture of the mace uses both state-of-the-art rapid prototyping techniques and handcrafted parts, harnessing the capabilities of our talented partners in industry. The mace head continues the dynamic form of the shaft and displays the crest of the University, whose heraldic imagery of the Welsh and Chinese dragons, with outstretched wings, shows both our strong roots and our international reach."



Above and below: Jeremy working on a prototype of the University mace



Jeremy Spencer is an artist and designer, and designed the Chair in 2010 for the National Eisteddfod in Ebbw Vale. In his early career Jeremy ran his own model making and prototyping business, where he worked for a number of clients, including global toolmakers Fiskars and ICI, before moving into the world of academia. As well as traditional woodcraft, Jeremy also uses new materials and manufacturing techniques such as 3D printing and laser cutting in his work. He also regularly makes props for films, including the forthcoming biblical epic Exodus, directed by Ridley Scott. Jeremy lectures on the Foundation Art and Design course at the University, from which students go on to further study in many different areas across the whole breadth of the creative spectrum, such as fashion, architecture, illustration and animation.

Academic Dress of the University

The academic dress of the University of South Wales follows the tradition established in the Middle Ages, when the original universities of the Western world adapted the clothing of the day to distinguish their scholars. The various details of academic dress now represent the university and degree to which the wearer belongs.

The senior officers of British universities generally wear distinctive and more elaborate dress. The Chancellor's robe has been designed and created for the University of South Wales, and follows the traditional form of ceremonial dress that has signified senior rank since the 16th century. This form of robe is also seen in the state dress of office-holders such as the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Chancellor.

The University's chancellorial robe, worn for the first time today, is made of red 'Truro' damask, decorated with white and has grey detailing on the front. The silver ornaments on the sleeves are known as 'frogs'. The Chancellor's hat is a soft rounded headpiece, known as a Tudor bonnet, with long-standing origins in the academic traditions of the UK.

The Vice-Chancellor and senior officers of the University wear distinctive robes based on this design. Undergraduate and Masters hoods of the University are variations of red and slate-grey, with the full-dress robes of a Doctoral degree traditionally made of bright silk-like red cloth.



Poetry and Music for today's occasion

The University of South Wales is one of the major forces in the cultural life of Wales, encompassing the national conservatoire, the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama; award-winning poets and authors, artists and sculptors, playwrights and designers; and broadcasting, film, animation, fashion, drama and photography within its Faculty of Creative Industries.

Major ceremonies are traditionally celebrated with specially written music and poetry, and we have worked in partnership with artists from across the University's academic community, the wider region, and with Tŷ Cerdd - Music Centre Wales to mark today's occasion with a lasting contribution. The new fanfare and processional *University of South Wales* was commissioned for today by Tŷ Cerdd from valleys-born composer Gareth Wood, and is performed for the first time today in the Entrance of the Chancellor.

Wales has a strong tradition of story-telling through music and poetry set to harp and voice. In welcoming the new Chancellor, a poet in his own right, Professor Philip Gross has collaborated with young graduate composer Benjamin Vaughan to create a modern bardic welcome. The poem is a glosa, a traditional form in which a poet takes the words of another, much respected poet, and creates an address based on his original words. *Our Home Addresses* is performed today by the Poet, Welsh student and harpist Megan Morris, and international student mezzo-soprano Kerri-lynne Dietz.



CLPE Award for Children's Poetry in 2011.

Professor Philip Gross is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of South Wales, and is a poet and novelist for adults and young people. *The Water Table* won the TS Eliot Prize 2009, *I Spy Pinhole Eye* the Wales Book of The Year 2010, and *Off Road To Everywhere* the CLPE Award for Children's Poetry in 2011.



Gareth Wood was born in Cilfynydd, south Wales, and was educated at Pontypridd Boys Grammar School. He has written many fanfares, including one for the opening of the fourth session of the National Assembly in 2011, by Her Majesty the Queen.

Known internationally as a composer for brass bands, he has also conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



Rhondda-born **Benjamin Vaughan** graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama with a first class Honours degree in Music. He has worked with the Arditti Quartet, London Chamber Orchestra, WNO Max, and the Welsh Sinfonia. Since 2013, he has run

Ben Vaughan | Music, which incorporates bespoke commissioning, private tuition and educational workshops.

"Our Home Addresses"

a glosa on lines by Rowan Williams

Friend, welcome... is it home? You don't need me, an incomer, to show you places you'll have known all along. The skill's to weigh familiarity with distance, hold the focal length. Worked stone, scorched bracken... Keep us clear. It's easy to see what's gone, the valleys like a bare ruined choir where late the... as if nothing's to be grown from emptied spaces underground but history. Then the clang of a scaffolding pole, the screech of a tyre flush birds like scraps of paper from the fire

into an updraught. Jackdaws! They've something to say as usual. Some wry gossip. They've seen it before, whatever's for the burning. They're off, on their way to some new kerfuffle. They'll survive, for sure. The skill is letting silence speak – the grey slag scree smoothed out to baize-green slopes that tell us little, but enough – and in more than one language. More than two. The everyday adds its scholarly footnotes to our poets' tropes of yesterday's news and last week's envelopes

(some unopened, too late now, that might be charity appeals, last-chance sales, red-top Final Demands). Held to the flames, they'll write what they know – how pages of ash on their bed of embers quiver on the edge of fight-or-flight. Or weightless now, they lift, displaced into the sky's translation. They will be read, the way that certain low deep angles of the light pick out this bank, that ditch, however long erased; the words come back at sunrise, faintly traced

inside us. That's the skill, one we study to learn though we're all heirs to it – of head and heart and hand. To be the paper, and the print. To burn. To be what flies up from the fire, what comes apart and what we're part of. Friend, help us discern the human way – to be like God's own guesses, sparks in the night, inspired doubts... The art is to listen through the world's noise – then return the words to quiet, wash them clean. And yes, it's then, sometimes, we read our home addresses.

from *September Birds*, Rowan Williams



Philip Gross



The Honourable Mrs Justice
Nicola Davies DBE

Dame Nicola Davies

The University recognises the Honourable Mrs Justice Nicola Davies DBE, lawyer and advocate, expert in medicine and Judge of the High Court, leader in the law and breaker of glass ceilings, with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws of the University.

Our system of adversarial justice relies on the ability of capable advocates to put aside their personal opinion and present the strongest possible case for Crown or defendant. Nicola Davies exemplifies this quality.

A specialist in medical negligence law, she has played a major role in the BSE Inquiry and the Bristol heart surgeons case. But in perhaps her most potent demonstration of the role of dispassionate advocate, committed to serving the interests of justice, she represented Harold Shipman in one of the most high-profile criminal cases of modern times. As she summarised it in her own words: "You learn to put your feelings to one side and get on with the job."

Hers is a notable career. As a practising barrister and member of Gray's Inn, she built a strong reputation through her work in civil law in the area of medicine. The first Welsh woman to become a Queen's Counsel, she was the youngest in Wales to take silk at only 39. She had been called to the Bar in 1976, and went on to sit as a Recorder from 1998, before being appointed a Deputy High Court judge in 2003. Since her appointment to the High Court, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, she continues to deal with some of the most sensitive cases to come before the High Court.

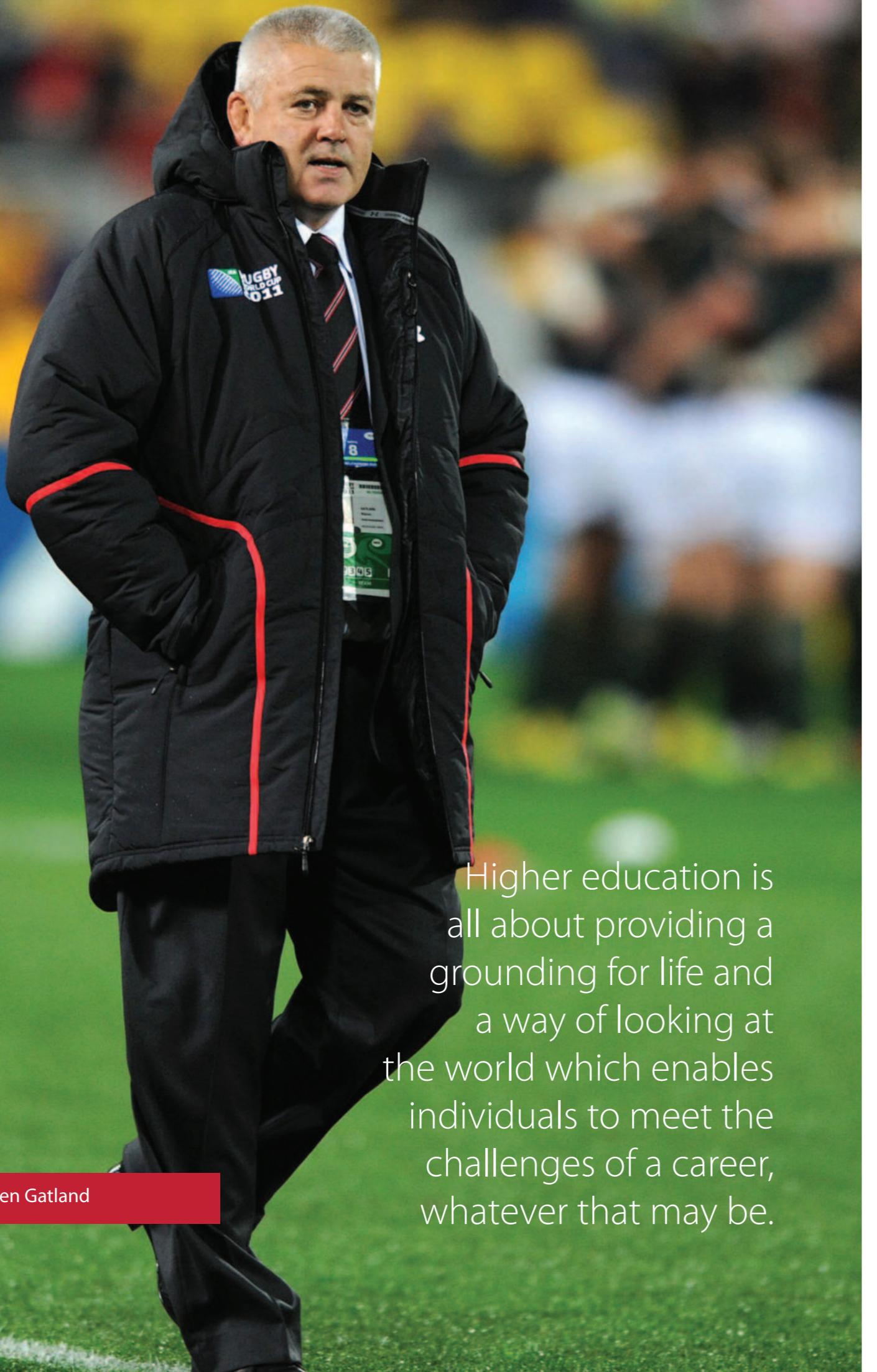
Having been born in Llanelli, and moving at a young age to Bridgend, Wales holds a special place in her heart. It is with pleasure that we note her becoming Presiding Judge for the Wales Circuit, for Wales and its culture are close to her heart.

Successfully having achieved senior recognition within the legal profession, she is firmly committed to encouraging other women to do the same. As a liaison judge for diversity, she has made a tremendous contribution to the legal professions in encouraging and assuring applicants from all backgrounds that appointment to judicial office is based solely on merit.

As The Independent memorably reported her saying in 1995, "A lack of confidence is responsible for able women not coming forward as men do. I know – I suffered from it myself." But she also had some advice for herself, which rings true for every young person entering the world of work: "Either I give it a shot or I end up with a chip on my shoulder."

Nicola Davies has done more than simply "give it a shot". Our Welsh state-educated, first generation lawyer has gone from a high-profile medical law practice to the High Court, from Bridgend Grammar School to the Inns of Court, and is now one of the most respected jurists of our time.





Higher education is all about providing a grounding for life and a way of looking at the world which enables individuals to meet the challenges of a career, whatever that may be.

Warren Gatland

Warren Gatland

The University recognises Warren David Gatland, pusher of sporting boundaries, mentor of Grand Slam winners and victorious British Lions, teacher of sportspeople and restorer of national pride, with an Honorary Doctorate of the University.

Few people realise that I started out my working life in the field of education. Having taught for ten years in my native New Zealand, I learnt just how important education is in transforming the lives of those who engage with the opportunities it presents.

For me, higher education is all about providing a grounding for life and a way of looking at the world which enables individuals to meet the challenges of a career, whatever that may be. My own experience studying education at Waikato University set me up with the ability to plan, manage my own time and most importantly, provoked the ability to become an independent thinker. At its most effective, a university education is about expanding the mind, whatever the choice of subject area. Even now I find myself applying my own skills as an educationalist to my role as a rugby coach; in simple ways such as knowing how much information and training I can expect the players to absorb in one session.

As a national team coach, the sporting performance of my players is of course my primary focus. However, there is a wider obligation to ensure that the team members get a taste for 'real' life. They will, after all, need skills beyond those in international sport to fall back on at the end of their careers. This is where our link up with higher education institutions is so valuable. There are many high profile examples of current squad members who have combined university study with their professional sporting roles. In recognising that this mix is so important, we have worked hard to ensure that these individuals have been able to meet the demands of both areas of their lives.

Universities are now, more than ever, opening up opportunities for their students which didn't exist in the past. Students are given the flexibility to gain experiences outside of their academic study, which provide a stepping stone to employment when they graduate. At forward thinking institutions, work placements and access to live projects are now part and parcel of higher education level courses, which means that graduates leave with much more than the academic qualifications on their certificates.

The Welsh Rugby Union has a long association with the University of South Wales and I am thrilled to be joining my Chief Executive Roger Lewis and team Captain Sam Warburton as a recipient of an honorary award from this rising institution.

The University has become a hub for expertise in elite sport; from sports psychologists and sports scientists to those who specialise in sporting industries. It is a great asset for me to be able to tap into the expertise at the University and to benefit from the knowledge of its academics. This sharing of ideas and the open dialogue we have with academia is critical to developing our skills and knowledge base as a squad.

As an Honorary Doctor of the University, I look forward to seeing this partnership develop even further in the future.

Warren Gatland



Carwyn Jones

The University recognises the contribution of the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales, lawyer, lecturer, and leader, to the Law, to public life in Wales, and to democracy and representation, with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws of the University.

It is a tremendous privilege to be Wales's First Minister, and I am very conscious that it is an unusual career choice. It's also the result of a family that supported me, and a university education that gave me the tools to do my job.

I grew up in a family that believed in the worth of education. We were part of Wales's fundamental tradition that values learning and respects its scholars. Both of my parents were teachers, and the family was proud of our first successful applicant to university: my great uncle gained his place and was then killed in the war before he could take it up. I was the first in the family to gain my degree, and ours mirrored the same story in so many other families across Wales, with each generation making the most of increasing opportunities.

University was a real life-changer for me. It gave me the opportunity to find my own independence, to form my own views, to look after myself, and to meet other people from every background and nationality. I knew as a teenager that politics was going to be my vocation. I certainly had the will and the commitment. But I also needed the capability, and this is what my degree study gave me.

University taught me the skills of arguing, of making my own case and deconstructing the argument of my opponent. It's a

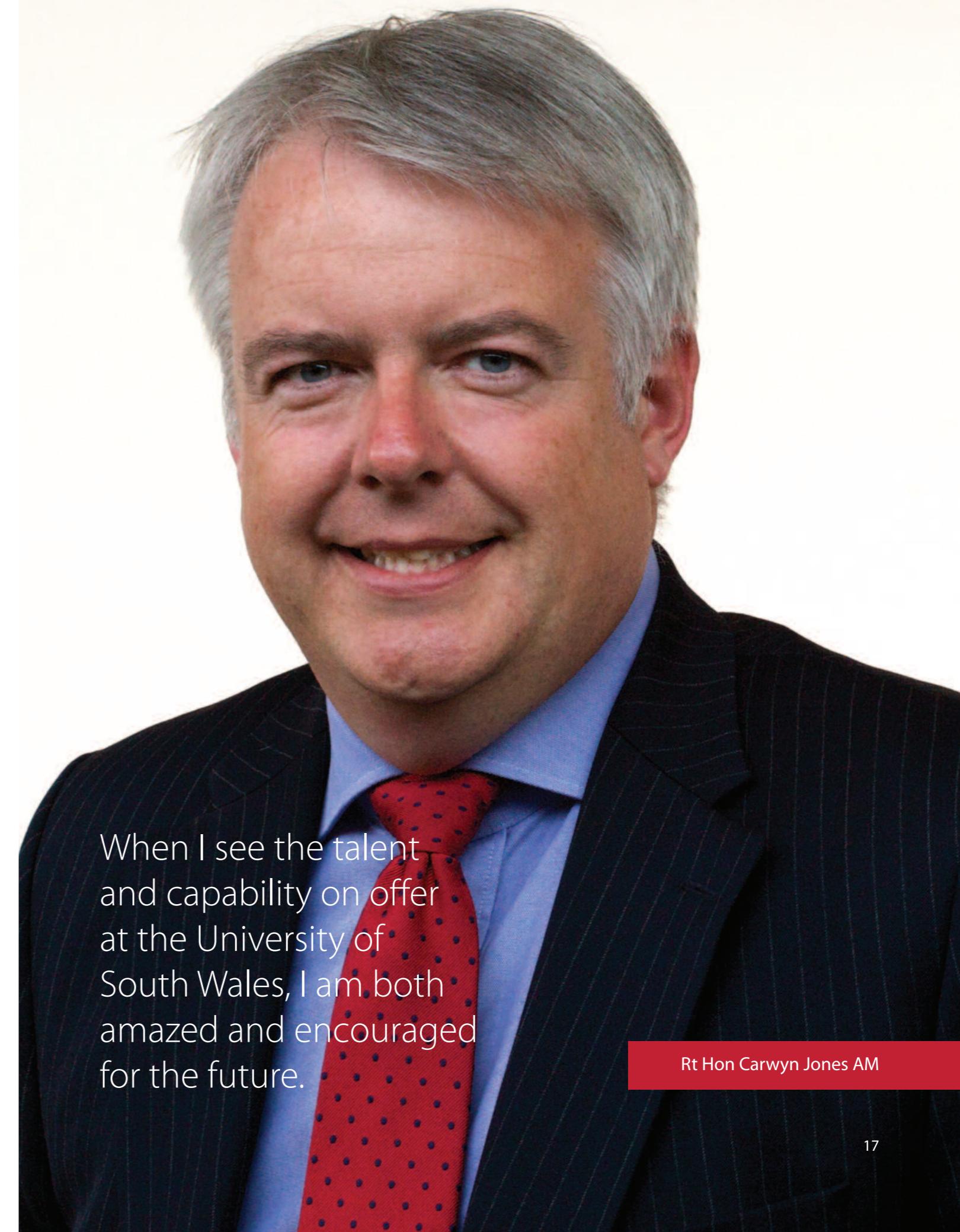
fundamental training that served me well for a decade in legal practice before I went to the Assembly, and it's a grounding I still use every day. University taught me the law, but it also taught me about being a representative: listening, discussing, understanding; the core skills of advocacy.

That was an opening that many other young people didn't have at my age, and it is real progress that the opportunities our students have now are greater than in my day as an undergraduate. We have superb lecturers in Wales, and our students study in some of the finest facilities anywhere.

When I see the talent and capability on offer at the University of South Wales, I am both amazed and encouraged for the future. That is as it should be, for our graduates today are in a far tougher, more competitive race for success than when I went out into the world of work. If the opportunities are greater, so is the competition. That's why we – and they – need universities like this.

Today is a day for celebrating what makes this University unique. I am proud to say today that I become part, in a different and special way, of the academic community of the University of South Wales. It means a great deal to me.

Carwyn Jones



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Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM

Julia Unwin

The University recognises the contribution of Julia Unwin CBE, Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, expert in public policy, campaigner for charity, advocate for people who are unheard, with an Honorary Doctorate (DUniv) of the University.

It is a great honour both for me and for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to be part of the next stage in the development of the University of South Wales. The University provides people of all ages with the opportunity to improve their skills and engage with lifelong learning, and of course, be part of the community in south Wales. What is more, it develops a centre of expertise, of knowledge and of skills that will enrich us all, and provide us with an even better opportunity to respond to the many challenges of our time.

The world we face is a disruptive, divided, and frequently dangerous one. The devastation caused by floods earlier this year reminded us all, if we needed reminding, of the power of the climate, and the damage that people and places can suffer. The scientific consensus is that we will face continuing and threatening 'extreme weather events', and that we will need to engage all our skills, knowledge and ability to avoid the worst impacts of damaging climate change, while at the same time protecting people and places from its impacts. To survive this next stage in our country's life we will need leadership at neighbourhood level, and in every community and city in the country. Political leaders face the huge challenge of ensuring that we distribute our increasingly scarce resources in a way that supports future generations, as much as existing ones. Pitting one generation against another is a recipe for division, hostility and failure.

It is not just in the environment however that we face challenge and risk. As we edge slowly out of the longest financial crisis in any of our lives, we have an opportunity to re-shape how we do things, and how we allocate money. Too often it seems to be the case that the poorest people and places are suffering the most. In our fractured labour market, where hard work no longer provides a reliable route out of poverty, poverty is a social evil that still stalks the nation.

We also face the huge challenge of responding imaginatively, to the changing shape of our population. The fact that we are living longer is a source of huge pride. The fact that people with major disabilities are able to lead full and active lives, should be a source of congratulation. Yet all too often we interpret this demographic change as a source of crisis and a cause for panic.

The power of shared learning, of rigorous discovery, of new perspective is what we need if these disruptive forces are not to make us an even more divided society. I am privileged to lead both the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust. Our founder, Joseph Rowntree, counted the number of people in poverty in York, and built housing for his workers in green and pleasant places. To this day we publish reports which show who is poor, and what can be done. The data on our website shares the facts; the research we commission, and the way in which we work shows some of the solutions. We manage housing and care services, and draw attention to the needs of people and places in poverty.

In all of this work, in research and in practice, we are absolutely reliant on the power and capacity of universities across the UK. Universities are of course centres of learning. But they are also the well spring of research. They offer us trained staff, whether managing care homes, building new eco-friendly housing, or designing alternative ways of responding to disability and dementia, making sure we publish and communicate in a way that people can hear.

Universities teach independence, self-discipline and financial management. They enrich people's ability to plan, to communicate, to focus. Students learn to dream, to aim high, to imagine a better world. We all need to be reminded about what matters to us, and what we are good at.

Julia Unwin



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Julia Unwin CBE