

The Honorary Graduand: Susan Fox

The Orator: Professor Steven West

Susan Fox is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Master of Business Administration.

Susan was born in Bristol in 1951 – the eldest of three sisters.

Sue attended local schools in Downend, Staple Hill and later studied at Soundwell College going onto work in secretarial roles during the late 1960s and 1970s.

She joined Bristol Polytechnic in 1985 carrying out roles in various departments and joined the Marketing and Communications department in the early 1990s as Bristol Polytechnic gained university status and became the University of the West of England.

Sue undertook further study in the Bristol Business School gaining a Marketing and Communications Diploma in the mid 1990s and worked her way through various promotions within the Marketing and Communications Department.

As Operations and Events Manager Sue was responsible for developing a new format for the university's student recruitment open days – the improvements resulted in thousands rather than hundreds attending these events and a much improved visitor experience.

In September 2006 the first of the university's campus based student accommodation on Frenchay Campus was completed. Sue worked with all departments within the university and the UWE Students' Union to develop a unique 'Welcome Weekend' of events and activities for all new students. A success with new students, their friends and families the annual 'UWE Welcome' still continues to help new students feel at home from day one.

The university holds 39 Awards Ceremonies annually and Sue has developed and managed the ceremonies in Bristol and Gloucester Cathedrals for the last 20 years. Sue describes the ceremonies as the most enjoyable and rewarding of university events to organise as students celebrate their success with those who have supported them throughout their studies.

As Head of Corporate Relations and Events, until her retirement in March this year, Sue has welcomed many royal and ministerial visitors to the university, organised countless special lectures and other high profile events during her career.

Sue has been married to Martin for 42 years and they live in Winterbourne, near Bristol. They have one son, Nicholas, and six grandchildren.

Sue continues to be involved in event management in a voluntary capacity with a local charity.

The Honorary degree is awarded in recognition of Sue Fox's outstanding service to the student experience and to the reputation of the University of the West of England in her work with external partners and individuals that has brought so much to the University.