

## Tim Hartnoll, Benefactors Medal

Friday 25 July 2025

Orator: Professor Julie MacPherson, Department of Chemistry

It is a great pleasure to introduce TIMOTHY HARTNOLL, who will be presented at this ceremony with our Benefactor's Medal – an award that recognises the transformative impact of the philanthropic support that the recipient has given to the University.

It is always a particular pleasure to welcome back one of our own alumni. Tim graduated from Warwick with a BSc in Engineering Science in 1976. I myself graduated with a BSc in Chemistry from Warwick in 1993, and I'm still here! Tim's subsequent career has been in shipping. He inherited X-Press Feeders from his father, who had started the business in Singapore in 1972, and has transformed it into the world's largest feeder ship operation. It now has a diverse fleet of over 100 ships, which includes container ships, offshore support vessels and bulk carriers, and operates right across the globe.

Throughout his career, Tim has shown a deep commitment to environmental stewardship. He has been a leading voice in promoting sustainable shipping practices, helping to decarbonise the industry. He has built 16 dual-fuel ships and eight carbon-neutral vessels, pioneering the first low carbon trade in North Europe by burning methanol in their engines. He advocates for the International Maritime Organisation to implement a carbon tax to equalise fuel costs. He has said of his operations: 'We protect navigational decisions in our ships to protect whales and minimise the risk of collisions.' When Tim developed the Bawah Reserve (a resort hotel) in the Anambas islands, he ensured building was done without the use of heavy machinery to avoid destruction to the environment.

Tim also supports community engagement and social programmes. The company has built schools in the sub-continent and, in Bawah, local communities are being educated in how to keep the ocean clean.

Through personal donations and from his affiliated companies, Tim has generously supported Warwick over the years. In particular, he has supported our research through funding post-doctoral research positions and PhD scholarships: research is the lifeblood of this University, and 'post-docs' and PhD students are the backbone of our research teams. In 2022, Tim funded 13 post-doctoral research positions and 15 PhD scholarships in our Astronomy and Astrophysics Group, in the Department of Physics. This has helped it to grow from a single academic when founded in 2003 to its current component of over 80

researchers, making important contributions to the study of space and the origins of the universe. He has similarly, very recently supported our new, interdisciplinary Centre for Experimental Fuel Technologies that combines our ammonia fuel cell work and world-leading battery research to advance research into energy storage and conversion – work that clearly chimes with Tim’s own environmental interests. I myself have the honour of being one of the academics associated with this Centre, and this is a tremendous boost to what we will be able to achieve in this extremely important area. Tim has also funded prizes in the School of Engineering, a music scholarship and other PhD studentships. For Warwick, Tim’s generosity has been truly transformative.

Based in Singapore, Tim visits Warwick regularly, meeting students and researchers involved in the projects he has philanthropically funded. He was a key trustee of the Warwick Friends of Singapore Foundation which supports a scholarship for undergraduate students from Singapore, and has hosted many events for the University.

Vice-Chancellor: I present for the award of the Benefactor’s Medal: TIMOTHY HARTNOLL.