

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Sir George Cox The Chancellor's Medal

Oration by Ms Viki Cooke
Pro-Chancellor



Sir George Cox

The Chancellor's Medal

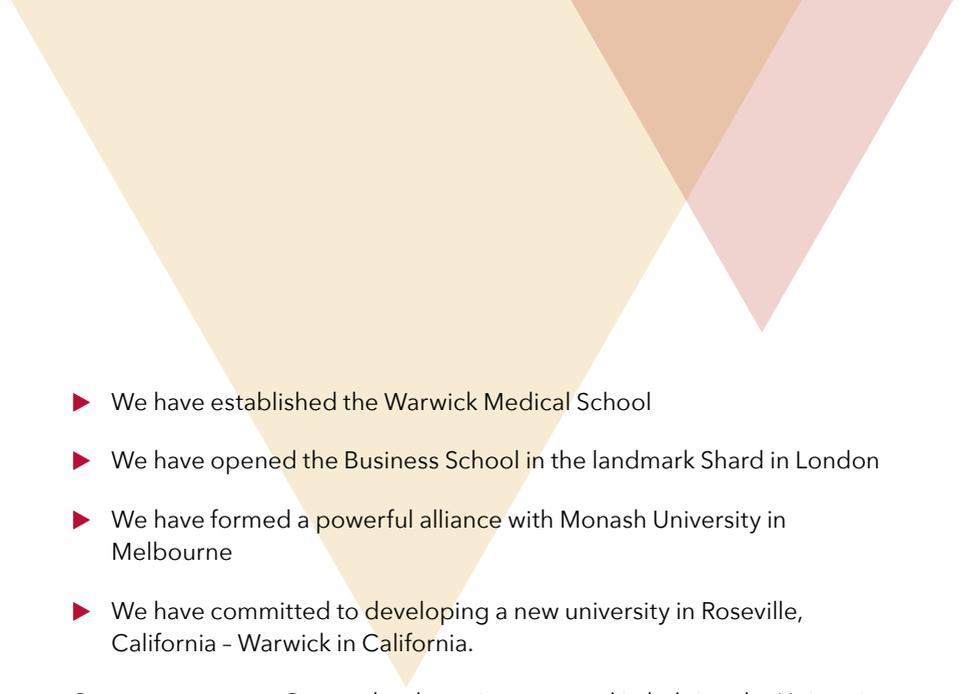
I have had the privilege of working with Sir George Cox on the Council of the University, which he has been on for the last 13 years, of which he was Chair of Council for the last six.

Sir George has been an inspiring Chair of Council and Pro Chancellor bringing boundless energy, wisdom and leadership to the role and guiding the University to great achievements. He is also a personal inspiration to many of us.

George has contributed an enormous amount for which we all have to be extremely thankful.

During George's involvement with Warwick, we have seen the University go from strength to strength, truly establishing ourselves as a world-leading institution. To share just a few examples of what we've achieved over this period:

- ▶ Our student population has grown by a third, from 18,000 to over 24,000
- ▶ Our research income has grown by almost two thirds
- ▶ We have been ever present in the top 10 rankings in every national league table
- ▶ We were named University of the Year by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*
- ▶ We have transformed the campus by funding the largest capital programme in the University's history including the creation of some iconic buildings such as the Oculus.
- ▶ The development of the National Automotive Innovation Centre (which is a great example of our strong partnerships with manufacturing industry), something which George has championed and which continues the traditions of the University's founders.

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- ▶ We have established the Warwick Medical School
 - ▶ We have opened the Business School in the landmark Shard in London
 - ▶ We have formed a powerful alliance with Monash University in Melbourne
 - ▶ We have committed to developing a new university in Roseville, California - Warwick in California.

So, as you can see, George has been instrumental in helping the University achieve an enormous amount.

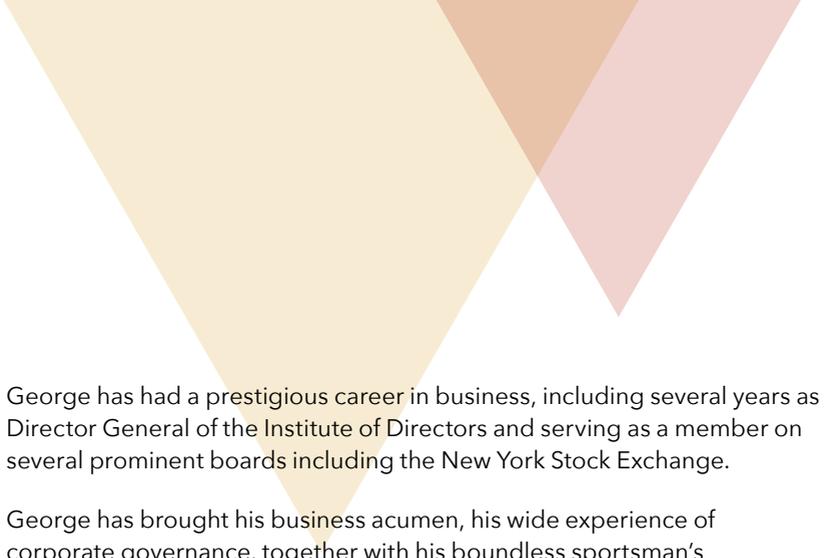
He has also personally overseen the appointment of our most recent Chancellors, Sir Richard Lambert and Cathy Ashton, Baroness of Upholland - the first female Chancellor of the University of Warwick - and our recent Vice-Chancellors, Sir Nigel Thrift and Professor Stuart Croft.

And there is no-one more proud than George of every accolade the University earns - whether as an institution, an academic or a student...

But let me tell you a little more about the force of nature that is Sir George:

George trained to be an aerospace engineer originally and that started a lifelong passion - perhaps obsession - for planes. His collection of original aircraft manufacturers' models represents a miniature history of aircraft design. When you travel with George he will always make time to visit the nearest aviation museum - which may not actually be that nearby!

George's other great passion is for rowing. He is himself a former international rowing coach and was chairman of Selectors for the British men's rowing team for the 1979 World Championships and the 1980 Olympics. Little has made George more proud than the phenomenal successes of our rowers over the last decade.



George has had a prestigious career in business, including several years as Director General of the Institute of Directors and serving as a member on several prominent boards including the New York Stock Exchange.

George has brought his business acumen, his wide experience of corporate governance, together with his boundless sportsman's enthusiasm, ambition and commitment to excellence, to his role as Chair of the University Council.

George has tremendous personal charisma, which he combines with opportunism and drive, and a commitment to good governance in its truest sense. His expertise, values and personality, combined with a deep commitment to Higher Education, and to Warwick in particular, have been instrumental in encouraging and enabling the University to make such significant progress in recent years, and to set the agenda for a continued trajectory of growing and sustaining excellence.

The few short minutes that I have to tell you about George only allow me to give you a glimpse into the man and his achievements. We are all immensely grateful for everything that George has done for the University of Warwick and want to recognise this publicly by awarding him a coveted Chancellor's Medal.

Chancellor, on behalf of the University, I present to you for the admission to the award of Chancellor's Medal, Sir George Cox.