

Patrick Dunne, the Chancellor's Medal

Thursday, 19 January, 2023, pm

Vice Chancellor:

I am delighted today to present our Chancellor's Medallist, PATRICK DUNNE, former member of the University Council and founder of our unique volunteering initiative, Warwick in Africa.

Our Chancellor's Medal is awarded to individuals who have made a truly valuable and significant contribution to the work of this University. Patrick's connection with Warwick goes back to his time here as a student, when he graduated in Maths and Statistics in 1980. He followed this up in 1985 with an MBA at Cranfield School of Management, where he subsequently became a Visiting Professor. For 26 years, he worked for the 3i Group plc, becoming its Communications Director, a member of its Operating Committee and Chairman of its Operational Risk Forum. But alongside this, he has also dedicated himself to encouraging philanthropy, particularly in relation to disadvantaged young people and education, which is where his passion lies. He is currently Patron – formerly Chairman - of the charity Leap - Confronting Conflict, helping young people navigate the conflict in their lives; Together with EY, he set up the EY Foundation, of which he is the chair. It is a charity that helps young people succeed in employment by reducing barriers in the workplace – and he founded ESSA, a charity contributing to education in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The idea for ESSA grew out of his work with our transformative education programme, Warwick in Africa, a charity which he founded together with Colin Sparrow, the former Head of Maths in 2006. It is philanthropically funded and combines student volunteering and peer-led teacher training and teacher support. It is currently operating in some of the poorest schools in South Africa, Ghana and Tanzania. The educational focus is on English and Maths, which Patrick describes as ‘fantastic liberators from poverty’. Warwick students are given a comprehensive training programme before setting out, while teachers in our African partner schools benefit from additional classroom support from our students and specially created training programmes. Warwick in Africa began with 12 student volunteers working in six schools in Johannesburg in 2006: in the summer of 2022, over 50 student volunteers helped train 638 teachers from 22 schools. Across the Programme’s entire life, over 465,000 young learners have benefitted and some 3,000 teachers have been trained. And our own students have had a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in another culture and to experience life in the classroom; on returning home, many of them choose teaching as a career as a result of their African experience. In 2013, Patrick received the Volunteer of the Year award from CASE Europe, recognising his achievements in the Warwick in Africa initiative, and he remains actively involved in the Programme.

Patrick has also served the University in a number of ways besides this – as an active alumnus, as an Associate Fellow at Warwick Business School and, from 2006 to 2015, as a lay member of the University Council. Lay members of Council are an essential part of the governance of the University, bringing to our deliberations constructive challenge and a valuable external perspective. Patrick served on the Council’s Finance and General Purposes Committee – some might say, perhaps the most important of the Council

Committees - and on the University Estate Committee, voluntarily and unfailingly volunteering his time and expertise. The University has benefitted greatly from his wise counsel and his experience in business and philanthropy, and it gives me the upmost pleasure to present him for the Chancellor's Medal today.

Vice-Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for the award of the Chancellor's Medal, PATRICK DUNNE.

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