The Honorary Graduand: Serrie Chapman

The Orator: Ian Johnson

Serrie Chapman is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Master of Technology.

Serrie Chapman has had what she calls a 'portfolio career' spanning from Catering management to nannying and fitting in some side-car racing on the side. She came back to study as a mature student and qualified with a degree in computing for real-time embedded studies from UWE Bristol in 2002.

Since gaining her degree she worked for Infineon Technologies doing hardware pre-silicon verification on automotive system on chips, moving onto requirements management, product management and then into consulting on the Network Rail electrification project before moving to her current role as principal Safety Engineer at Fusion Processing working on the first driverless bus in Scotland on the CAVForth project.

During this part of her career she has also been involved with various standards including the IEEE 1647 on the e-language, multiple of the BSI PAS standards for autonomous driving and is currently involved on ISO standards committees.

During her spare time Serrie works with co-organisers on running the Bristol (and Bath) Girl geek dinners meetup which she has been involved in since 2012. In 2015 Serrie set up with the help of her founders Women's Tech Hub as a social enterprise to support the women attending the girlgeekdinner meetups who were looking for more support in their careers, were looking to transfer into a tech career and also those wanting to return into their careers after a careers break.

The group has become an invaluable resource for the members finding new friends, support networks, Job support, workshops and training. It currently has over 1500 members and across all the groups, which also include women tech founders there are over 3000 members involved. The Group believes in collaborations and works hard with companies and the universities in the area to address the issues that they hear about from their members. They believe that it's a two way conversation and as such host with multiple meetup groups including Code Hub, Bristol Data Science & Machine Learning and the latest to collaborate is the Women in Robotics group. They run events including the recent Data Science for beginner's conference supporting UWE Bristol with their MSc in Data Science helping debunk the industry and language around it. They also run Super Inclusive Careers Fairs to allow the industry to engage directly with their members in a safe and inclusive environment.

Since the start of their journey the most impressive part has been the amount of support and engagement they have received from industry, including a special thanks to Desklodge Bristol a co-working space that has hosted the group for free since its inception. Also, to all the great hosts for the girlgeekdinners – hosting, feeding, and watering the members and giving them a welcoming insight into the industry.