

The Honorary Graduand: David John Lamb

The Orator: Professor Sir Steven West

David John Lamb is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University.

David has been a Governor at UWE for the last ten years, chairing it for the last three years, before stepping down at the end of July.

He is an Actuary by profession, with a career in investments and insurance stretching back to 1979.

Unusually for an Actuary, David took a risky decision which saw him - in 1992 - accept an invitation to join a new business startup. Over the next 29 years, he helped to build St. James's Place and take it from business plan to being the UK's largest wealth management business, with around 900,000 clients, and £150bn of assets under management. Today the business is one of the UK's top 100 companies listed on the stock market, with a value around £6bn. It also has the second fastest time taken to make the journey to the FTSE 100 from startup.

As Managing Director, he spent 12 years on the Board, working with the business in Sweden, Jersey, Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai, as well as in the UK.

For most of his career, David specialised in the investment market and in his time at SJP he built up an international group of fund management teams, from the US, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Europe, the UK and Japan. Working with multiple cultures and international regulatory bodies.

David's connections to Bristol started when his son suddenly grew very tall, reaching 6'5" at the age of 15, and began to play basketball. Soon David was a regular volunteer driver, taking a group of Bristol teenagers across the UK to play against teams from every background and every city. The club did well and went onto to become part of the setup that is now the Bristol Flyers.

Since retiring from his full-time work, David has taken up a number of non-executive roles and currently chairs Polar Capital, an asset management firm in London. He is also chair of Ireland's oldest insurance company, based in Dublin. More importantly, he is a full-time grandparent, which he describes as his most important role.