HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

LAUREATION

PROFESSOR SIR JOHN VINCENT MCCANNY CBE, FRS, FRENG

BY PROFESSOR STEVE MCLAUGHLIN · TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2019

Chancellor, I have the honour to present for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering, Professor Sir John Vincent McCanny.

Heriot-Watt is world famous for its research in Digital Signal Processing, the application of mathematics to manipulate signals that underpins all modern communication and entertainment devices.

John is known for his research on advanced silicon processor architectures for digital signal and video processing and cryptography and is internationally recognised for his contributions to innovation, research translation and entrepreneurship.

I would also like to welcome his wife Maureen and daughter Kathryn to the ceremony today.

John received a BSc from the University of Manchester in 1973, a PhD in Physics from the University of Ulster in 1978, and a DSc in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Queens University in Belfast. John recently retired and is now the Regius Professor Emeritus in Electronics and Computer Engineering at Queens University Belfast.

John has made major contributions to both academic life and the technology industry. His contributions have been recognised by winning medals from learned societies and institutions in both the UK and Ireland.

He is recognised as a leader by his peers in the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the Irish Academy of Engineering, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), the Institute of Physics and Engineers Ireland. He has received from the Royal Academy of Engineering the Silver Medal, the IET Faraday Medal, the Royal Irish Academy's Cunningham Medal and the Irish Academy of Engineering's Parson Medal.

His achievements are recognised by the accolade of election as a member of the Royal Academy of Engineering and also as a Fellow of the Royal Society,

And finally, recognition of his many contributions to the UK first by the award of a CBE for Contributions to Engineering and Higher Education, and then ultimately he received a Knighthood in 2017 for services to Higher Education and Economic Development.

He has co-founded two successful high technology companies based on the work of his research teams: Amphion Semiconductor, later acquired by Conexant; and Audio Processing Technology, later acquired by Cambridge Silicon Radio - now part of Qualcomm. And if that was not enough: it was John's vision that was responsible for the creation of the Northern Ireland Science Park (now hosting 200 companies and employing 3000 people) and its £37M research flagship, the Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology. He also led the initiative that created the (now) £65M Centre for Secure Information Technology, the UK's Innovation and Knowledge Centre for Cybersecurity.

In his spare time John works extremely hard on reducing his golf handicap, unfortunately to no avail as it keeps going up!

Chancellor, in the name of the University and by the authority of the Senate, in recognition of his pioneering and influential contributions to innovation in electronics and signal processing, in research translation and in entrepreneurship. I call upon you to confer the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering on Professor Sir John Vincent McCanny.