

Pro-Chancellor,

Giles Sturdy is a long-standing supporter of Bournemouth University, having served as a Board Member, Deputy Chairman and Pro-Chancellor. He has regularly hosted archaeological digs for students on his family estate, near Wareham, and has been instrumental in forging new partnerships between the university and the Dorset community.

Giles' working life has centred on managing the Trigon Estate, which has been in his family for six generations. As a landowner, Giles has been keen to ensure that his home and farmland benefit others. This has included holding charitable events and offering his land to help BU students gain practical experience of archaeology and forensic science.

Early on, Giles combined his farming experience and passion for politics through the National Farmers' Union. Having been elected as the organisation's Chairman for Dorset in 1978, he was later elected to its National Council and chaired its Parliamentary, Land Use and Environment Committee for six years. During this time, Giles was active in developing public debate around environmental protection. In 1997, this focus was expanded when Giles was appointed Chair of the Environment Agency's Regional Flood Defence Committee for Wessex. In this role he helped to promote extensive flood protection works at Poole, Portland, West Bay and the Somerset Levels.

A keen sailor, Giles was invited to chair the Poole Harbour Commissioners, which is responsible for managing the interests of those operating in and around the port. He has also served as High Sheriff of Dorset, as a Deputy Lieutenant and as Chair of Governors for The Purbeck School. In 2008, his contribution to the community of Dorset was recognised when he was awarded an MBE.

Since joining the Board at Bournemouth University, Giles has been involved in the appointment of senior staff and in making decisions regarding the future of the institution. His advice to graduates is to make the most of opportunities to shape the issues affecting our society.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Giles Sturdy, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

*Readers' notes:*

*Remember that Lieutenant is pronounced Left-tenant*