

Biography of Professor Marcus Ormerod

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and especially to guests who have joined us from outside of the University, may I extend a warm welcome to you all. Tonight we have the opportunity of joining with Marcus in celebrating his achievement in being appointed as professor, but also in celebrating the development of inclusive design as a discipline within the UK and internationally, which in part has been led by the SURFACE research team here at Salford.

Marcus started work at the age of 18 with a local construction firm as a trainee buyer. He was sent to Stockport College, and at the end of his first term was told not to return. We are assured that he was not expelled, but that he was advised instead to train as a quantity surveyor at Salford College of Technology. Marcus excelled in his studies and was awarded the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Biscoe Taylor Memorial prize. He qualified as a chartered quantity surveyor in 1988 and began teaching at Salford College of Technology in 1990, and some of those colleagues from the College are here this evening.

In 1995 the College was absorbed into the University and a small band of merry teachers and administrators from the College joined the prestigious University Department of Surveying – the highest ranked surveying department in the UK.

From 1999 Marcus and the SURFACE team have pioneered the development of the discipline of inclusive design within the UK. They are the only Salford team to have a 100% success rate on achieving government funding to support their research. In teaching they have developed the unique MSc in Inclusive Design which is taught through the internet. Some of those virtual MSc students are sitting here tonight for the first time in the flesh, so we extend a warm welcome to you – and warn you that this is what Marcus looks like in reality!

Marcus has acted as an advisor on inclusive design to many local authorities, access groups, local businesses and central government departments. He was academic advisor on a DTI trade mission to the USA on intelligent and assistive housing. He was part of the team receiving a Civic Trust Award for the innovative design of the Sail Bridge in Swansea, and recently the neighbourhood design guidance which he co-authored with Rita has been recognised by the World Health Organisation as being of importance.

So lets welcome Professor Marcus Ormerod