



**Bournemouth
University**

PETER WILSON MBE

Pro-Chancellor,

Peter Wilson is a world leader in sports shooting. He took a Gold Medal in the London 2012 Olympics, won the World Cup in 2011 and 2012, and holds British and World records.

Peter grew up on a Dorset farm and was educated in this county and at Millfield School. After studying graphic design briefly at what is now the University of the Arts Bournemouth he decided to take up Double Trap shooting as a career. He had started shooting, initially one-handed, after a snowboarding accident left him unable to pursue mainstream sport. Double Trap is a particularly challenging event, but it appealed to Peter's perfectionist nature, and his combination of skill, mental strength and tenacity made him National Schools Champion by the age of 18. This success only increased his ambitions; he set his sights on the Olympics, UK Sport gave him World Class Performance Programme funding, and he won the first of his many international awards, the European Junior Championship, in 2006.

Even so, Peter's path to success was far from smooth. In 2008, along with 48 other athletes, he lost his World Class Performance Programme funding because of the economic recession. But he worked in a pub, his parents supported him, and his resourcefulness stood him in good stead. He did all his own planning, monitored his nutritional levels and devised his own fitness regime, as well as spending long periods of time on the shooting range. And his outstanding potential had been recognised at the highest levels, so Sheikh Ahmad Al Maktoum, Gold Medal winner at the Athens Olympics in 2004, and a member of the ruling family of Dubai, offered to coach Peter without charge. With this backing he regained his place on the World Class Performance Programme and soon set a new British record.

More international prizes soon came in quick succession. While his best-known sporting achievement is winning Olympic Gold at London 2012, Peter also has a glittering array of other awards, ranging from the UK Open Junior Championship and the European Junior Championships to the British Open Championship, the English Open Championship (three times), the Italian Championship in 2012 and the World Cup twice. While winning his second World Cup, at Tucson, Arizona in 2012, he set the world record score for the Double Trap event; he still holds that record and is world number one in the Double Trap rankings.

This year Peter was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire

for services to shooting. He still has high ambitions in his sport, performing with Rio 2016 in mind and coaching a 15-year-old who is emerging as a future star. Other goals include setting up a target-shooting centre of excellence, which the UK lacks at present, and producing a new type of sporting gun. He designs computer applications, and he is also much in demand as an inspirational speaker and motivator. Recently he has become a Brand Ambassador for the international gunmaker Holland and Holland; he takes a similar role for the Gleneagles Hotel and Resort, and is leading the expansion of its activities in southern England.

Peter outstandingly epitomises this University's values of excellence and achievement, and it is our pleasure and privilege to honour him today.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Peter Wilson, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Arts, *honoris causa*.