

Universities are hugely complex organisations that face an unusually wide range of challenges. The strength of UK university management is evident in our institutions' exceptional performance, particularly when measured against that of international rivals and the level of investment they receive.

Someone who embodies that is Mike Shattock, who has played a role in the development of the modern university – first as a pioneering registrar at the University of Warwick, there in the 1980's and 1990's he was at the heart of work shaping the distinctive entrepreneurial approach of the institution, and later as an academic and expert on the organization and administration of higher education.

His hands-on involvement in resolving crises has included the recovery of what is now Cardiff University in 1987, and a review at the University of Cambridge in 2001, which led to far-reaching changes in its administration and governance.

Mike's wider influence is to be found across a large number of universities in the generation of senior higher education administrators whom he helped to develop – a formidable diaspora who owe much of their professional foundations to him.

Since 1999, he has been a professor in the Centre for Higher Education Studies at the Institute of Education, where he founded the world's only MBA in higher education management, while his own publication record and his work internationally – particularly on higher education reform in Eastern Europe – speak volumes about the drive and innovation that have been the hallmarks of his career.

Described by one member of the Times Higher Education editorial board as someone whose “legacy will survive down the generations”, he is a deserving winner of the Lord Dearing Lifetime Achievement Award.