

16/02/2015

Recognition for Gary

Dr Gary Brickley, Senior Lecturer in the university's School of Sport and Service Management received the 2015 Alumnus Award at the winter award ceremonies.

Dr Brickley was recognised for his outstanding paralympic coaching achievements and field expertise. He has coached in four Paralympic games helping Team GB's Paracyclists in Sydney in 2000, Athens in 2004, Beijing in 2008, and London in 2012.



Professor Jo Doust, Head of the School of Sport and Service Management, introduced Gary during graduation award ceremonies at the Brighton Dome. He said: "Gary has been a fantastic ambassador for the university for nearly 20 years. He gained a BSc in sports science in 1994, a PhD in physiology in 2000 and an MSc in cardiology in 2003."

"His work with paracyclists has contributed significantly to Team GB's medal haul. Eight gold medals and one silver medal in Beijing, two gold medals and a silver medal in Athens, five gold medals, one silver medal and two bronze medals in London."

His achievements were recognised with a prestigious Mussabini medal when he was inducted into the coaching hall of fame, alongside the likes of Sir Alex Ferguson. His research has been presented around the world.

"Dr Gary Brickley is an inspiration to us all. As an alumnus, his involvement and support is making a real difference not just to past and present students but to the outstanding achievements of many of this country's finest athletes and to scientists around the world."

Gary said: "It's a fantastic honour – I am very proud to receive this." He dedicated the award to his father and advised graduates to "make sure you shake your parents' hands and get some really good photos today – I am always proud to be at these awards ceremonies and sharing them with the people you love."

Gary joined the Royal Navy when he was 17 and wanted a career in engineering but at the age of 26 switched to sport and joined the university for his first degree. He studied in Australia and later returned there with Team GB as their paralympic coach. He told how he collapsed whilst in Sydney and discovered problems with his heart, an event that diverted his studies to cardiology.

Famous athletes he has worked with include Dame Kelly Holmes, Paula Radcliffe MBE, Sir Bradley Wiggins, Sir Chris Hoy: "It's nice to be associated with these people and gain from that experience."

But his passion, he said, was working with para athletes: "They are my inspiration, they keep me going."

He graduated in sport science and went on to complete his PhD in Exercise Physiology. An interest in clinical physiology led him to study for his Master of Science degree in Cardiology in 2003, making him a three-time Brighton graduate.



Gary, who has coached Great Britain paracycling medallists Dame Sarah Storey DBE, David Stone MBE and Darren Kenny OBE, said: "I am incredibly proud to be recognised for winning this year's alumnus award. My education at the university has taken me on incredible journeys, filled with success."

Photos

1. Gary gives his award speech at the winter award ceremonies
2. Gary training the Great Britain paralympic cycling team