

Mrs Melinda McMahon - BA Hons Economics 1977

Having left school at 16 with a few mediocre O levels it never occurred to me or to any of my then teachers that I could be a university candidate until I began to realise that all I would ever be able to do would be to find jobs, not have a career, and therefore spend my working life being dissatisfied that my abilities were not being fully utilized. I was therefore extremely grateful to be offered a place not just at a university but one as prestigious as Manchester. There may be many others like myself who have missed out on their first opportunity who I would encourage to apply to the University if I encountered them.

Since serving my first term on the Alumni Association Advisory Board I have been impressed by the range of work carried out by this important body and would welcome the opportunity to see the progression of active issues.

I am also conscious of the worldwide reputation of the University and want to continue to promote it as part of my responsibilities. Given the number of successful universities available to potential students the University must ensure that its name and reputation continue to rank highly in the choice of where students elect to study for a first or second degree. Not only does the University need to attract quality students from the UK but it needs to compete in a highly competitive international arena therefore any activity which promotes the reputation of the University at home or abroad must be supported in whichever way possible.

Supporting students in field work at home and abroad is one of the ways of enhancing the reputation of the University and I am pleased to be able to help in this way by serving on the AAAB.