

HONORARY DEGREE FOR SIR RHODES BOYSON

Tuesday 2 October 2007



Sir Rhodes Boyson (fourth from left), next to Sir Alan Peacock, with his family and the Vice-Chancellor and Graduation Officer

The University is delighted to announce that an Honorary Degree (DLitt) was conferred on Sir Rhodes Boyson on Thursday 20 September in recognition for his unerring support in helping Buckingham gain its Royal Charter in 1983. As Under-Secretary of State for Education at that time Sir Rhodes liaised closely with Professor Sir Alan Peacock to help him achieve University status for Buckingham - not an easy task as officials in the then DES were opposed to the idea of an independent university.

Because Sir Rhodes was not well enough to travel to Buckingham, arrangements were made for a special, though low key, ceremony at the nursing home where he now lives. The Vice-Chancellor and the Graduation Officer travelled from Buckingham, picking up Sir Alan Peacock (the University College's last Principal as well as the University's first Vice-Chancellor) on the way.

The ceremony for Sir Rhodes was held in a walled garden in the presence of Lady Boyson and one of their daughters, as well as some staff from the Nursing Home. Sir Alan said a few words in appreciation of Sir Rhodes' support for the University at the time the Royal Charter was being sought, and the Vice-Chancellor formally presented the honorary degree, a Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*. The occasion was rounded off with a chocolate cake made especially for the day.