Professor Alison Hodge MBE PhD FIET CEng FInstP CPhys

Educational Qualifications

PhD (Studentship award from Science Research Council)
University of Reading, Physics Department
BSc (Hons) Class II div (I) Physics with Subsidiary Mathematics
University of Reading, Physics Department
4 GCE A'level passes, (A Chemistry, B Physics, B Pure Mathematics, D Applied Mathematics)
11 GCE O'level passes, University of London

Awards

MBE Queen's Birthday Honours - 2002 for services to the Institute of Physics
University of Bristol – 2011 Visiting Fellow, School of Engineering
Aston University – 2010 Honorary Professor, School of Engineering & Applied Science
Journal of Defence Science – 1998 Best Paper Award
Queen's Award for Technological Achievement - 1989 Team member

Employment History

Professor of Engineering Leadership, Associate Dean
Aston University, School of Engineering and Applied Science, Birmingham

Programme Developer (part-time, fixed contract)
Aston University, School of Engineering and Applied Science, Birmingham

- Development of a new programme to enhance engineering careers and business – "Masters in Leadership for Engineering"

QinetiQ University Partnerships Director
QinetiQ, a large (£1.6B turnover), high technology company operating in the UK, USA and Australia, in principally defence, security, aerospace sectors.

Head of External Liaison, Sensors & Electronics Division
QinetiQ, Malvern

Head of Radar Department
QinetiQ, Malvern

Department Head in a series of research departments
(Civil Service Senior Principal Scientific Officer, Grade 6 1995 – often considered as professorial equivalent)
Ministry of Defence, Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, Malvern

Research Scientist, Team Leader, Resource Manager, Project Manager
(Civil Service promotions from Higher to Senior then Principal Scientific Officer, Grade 7)
Ministry of Defence, Royal Signals and Radar Establishment and Defence Research Agency

Attachée de Recherche
Centre de Recherches sur les Macromolécules, Strasbourg University, France

Post-doctoral Research Assistant
Physics Department, University of Reading

Science Foundation Summer School Demonstrator
Open University Summer School

Part-time Demonstrator
University of Reading, Physics Department

Technician (Vacation work)
Royal Marsden Hospital Surrey, Physics Department

Technician (Vacation work)
St Thomas' Hospital London, Radiotherapy Physics Department

....A SORT OF CAREER...

Did I plan my career to become an Associate Dean in EAS at Aston?

What was the "recipe"?
Take one undergrad course in physics and maths (and as a girl, that was a story in itself) at Reading University.
Study the microstructure of plastics for a PhD – at the same university.
Go to France for a postdoc position – by that time I wanted to move. Centre de Recherches sur les Macromolécules, Strasbourg University
And then – no jobs in academic research, worse than now, it seemed.

Because I knew what an electron microscope would do, the Civil Service recruited me to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough.
But that job was cut (spending cuts are not new!) before I even started!
So I was offered a post in Worcestershire at another Civil Service Research lab. Royal Signals and Radar Establishment (as it was then known) in Malvern
Time was running out so I took it "just for a short while" I thought – and I was back in the UK, to look for something "serious".

How wrong was I?
The challenges, their variety and, importantly, the teams of people in Malvern, kept me there for very much longer than intended!

*Because I knew about **micro-**scopes, I was put to work on **micro-**electronics (well … Civil Service personnel thought they might be the same!)*
And from that, yes, I led research teams in the development of advanced micro electronics (such as now dominate computers, phones, cameras etc) and the complete systems in which they are used - from submarines to satellites and everything in between, literally.

Bidding for money, managing big laboratories, building relationships, liaising with Governments – local, national and international, working with professional institutions, managing departments of up to 250 researchers, spinning out a 2 man start-up, protecting and prosecuting intellectual property, managing projects and customers, ….
10 years ago, all the Civil Service labs were privatised in one way or another, so we entered the "real" commercial world as a plc "QinetiQ" – a £1Bn turnover, 12,000 strong "start-up" company!
More cutbacks ensued so I headed back into the academic world!

How was that not serious, varied and challenging --- all at the same time!

*So – there was s**ome** planning in my earlier career but I doubt that I would ever have predicted the outcome.*