VIEW FROM THE TOP

Georgette Davey, dean of the Glion Institute of Higher Education’s London campus tells us how important she believes it is to invest in hospitality education

How long have you been a dean and what was your first job in hospitality?
As one of the world’s top three institutes of higher education for an international career in hospitality, Glion opened its first branch campus in London in August 2013. I was appointed dean at Glion London to oversee the first 2013 student intake and lead the academic team. My first role in education was as a professor at University College Suffolk, where I spent eight years delivering a portfolio of degree courses in hospitality, leisure and tourism.

What have your career highlights been?
My experience in the industry spans 25 years and includes stints at Hilton International and the Adams Group. In 2001, I joined Les Roches International School of Hotel Management as professor of human resource management and helped develop curricula for the Les Roches Jin Jiang branch campus in Shanghai, China. I’ve also worked at Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne as a senior consultant, as well as in Brazil, Kazakhstan, Lebanon and Mexico.

What challenges do you face as a dean at Glion London?
Having enough hours in the day to maximise time spent with the students. Our students are so enthusiastic about their studies and experiences, it is just one of the pleasures of my role to see them develop from young adults into industry professionals and hear about their experiences since arriving on campus.

What’s your favourite role?
My current role because launching Glion’s first branch campus in London presents such exciting opportunities for the growth of hospitality degrees in the UK. With a wealth of career opportunities on the doorstep and a thriving hospitality sector at their fingertips, we’re excited to welcome Glion London’s first students – the future leaders of hospitality management.

What has been the most important lesson learnt so far?
Communication is key – with our students, our industry guests and partners, as well as with our colleagues in Switzerland. It’s important to utilise opportunities to use all forms of communication, from virtual conferencing, to formal meetings or even just sitting and catching up over an informal coffee. Through listening and talking to one another we can achieve so much more together.

What are your future plans?
To continue to expand Glion here in London and to provide our students with the very best opportunities available in this vibrant and exciting city. We strive for our students to be at the cutting edge of the hospitality industry, so continuing to forge and expand links with our industry partners is also important.