

Alumni-funded essay competition finds worthy winner

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Two College of Arts and Law students have been celebrating their victory in an essay competition, funded by the **Alumni Impact Fund** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence/projects-supported.aspx>), at a reception on Monday 28th January.

The essay competition is split into two categories: one for undergraduate students and one for postgraduate students (taught courses). The competition gives our talented students an additional opportunity to engage with challenging but accessible subjects to produce original and entertaining pieces of work.



Donations to the Circles of Influence campaign supported the competition's category prizes which included an iPad for each overall winner. The winning essays have been **published** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/student-experience/opportunities/essay/index.aspx>) on the University website.

The winner of the undergraduate competition said: "I am thrilled to have won the essay competition and my iPad is amazing".

Jan Watts (MPhil, Playwriting Studies) took part in the judging panel of the postgraduate category. As a playwright and former Birmingham Poet Laureate, Jan (who graduated from the Shakespeare Institute in 2008) was looking for an essay that was entertaining as well as well informed. She attended the prizegiving to meet the author of the winning essay.

She said: "I was delighted to be asked to be on the panel of judges for the postgraduate essay competition. The standard was very high and the winning entry was entertaining and pertinent.

"I was so pleased to meet the winner, Joanne, and to learn that she studies part-time, works full-time and still made time to take part in the essay competition. Congratulations to Joanne and all who took part."

Joanne Krawec (MA West Midlands History) said: "I am very proud – winning this has given me renewed confidence to push my academic career forward".