

## And the Winner is .... University 'Stars' Step Out for the BUAFAs

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The stars were out in force last night as they took to the red carpet for the University of Birmingham's equivalent to the BAFTAs - the BUAFAs.

More than 350 university staff packed in to Birmingham's Great Hall for the BUAFAs (Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement) gala awards ceremony, which was compered by Birmingham journalist Nick Owen.

The BUAFAs recognise staff in the University's Corporate Services departments who make an outstanding contribution. The awards are 'by staff, for staff', enabling colleagues to nominate those who they feel go the extra mile in their jobs. More than 400 nominations were put before an independent external judging panel, who narrowed the field to 53 across the 11 awards, including Best Customer Service, Best Contribution to the Environment, Best Newcomer and Team of the Year.

The winners included Sheila McDougall, Library Services Information Assistant, who was honoured for her Lifetime Achievement in devoting 35 years of dedicated and outstanding service to the University. Sheila began work in the University's Law Library in Edmund Street in 1960 before moving to the 'new' campus that summer where she helped establish the Harding Law Library. She is universally known as a loyal, supportive and popular member of staff.

Gill Ball, Acting Registrar and Secretary of the University, said: "We are delighted with the success of last night's BUAFAs. I would like to congratulate all of our winners on their achievement and for showing us why they really are true A-listers. I'd also like to toast everyone who was nominated. They can be proud to know they have inspired the respect and admiration of their colleagues.

"The response to the BUAFAs has been overwhelming. I would like to thank everyone who played a part in the awards for helping to make this a truly memorable event and for giving the finalists a chance to shine."

The event also featured a charity raffle with a top prize of £1,000, donated by sponsors. All proceeds will go to Birmingham St Mary's Hospice, which cares for more than 1,000 people each year suffering from life-limiting illnesses.

### Ends

Media information: Anna Dingley, Press Officer, University of Birmingham

Tel: 0121 415 8134 / email [anna.dingley@bham.ac.uk](mailto:anna.dingley@bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:anna.dingley@bham.ac.uk>)

### Notes to Editor:

The 2008 Corporate Services BUAFAs winners:

Best Contribution to the Environment Donna Harris, Corporate Relations

Best Customer Service Ann Dunbar, Academic & Student Administration

Best Newcomer Phil Toland, Hospitality & Accommodation Services

Idea of the Year Grand Prix Squash Event

Lifetime Achievement Sheila McDougall, Library Services

Manager of the Year Lesley Stewart, Hospitality & Accommodation Services

Outstanding Contribution of the Year Mark Cooper, IT Services

Project of the Year Claire O'Sullivan, DARO

Team of the Year Aston Webb Reception

Team Player of the Year Lesley Driscoll, Human Resources

Vision and Values Award Richard Shortland, Finance

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