

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

Hello and welcome everybody! Thank you for joining us at our first ever online celebration event. My name is Elina and I am the Activities Project Coordinator at your Students' Union. When I first started planning this event back in January, I had no idea that it was going to be online, and I had even less idea that I would be filming it from my own bedroom.

I really wanted to continue with Leics Celebrate to spread some much-needed positivity in what's been a really challenging year, and also I really believe that our students still deserve full recognition for all of their incredible achievements. I was really surprised that we had over 400 nominations for the awards this year, which is definitely the most we've ever had. So thank you so much to everybody who nominated and told us about the wonderful students who've had amazing successes and made a huge difference to our community.

So, make sure to leave a comment in the – [laughs] in the comments, and tell us what Student Group you're from, or what award you're most looking forward to in the event. And without further ado, we'll let the celebrations begin!

Lauren Heria (Activities and Volunteering Manager):

Hiya, and welcome to Leics Celebrate. I'm Lauren, the Activities and Volunteering Manager at the Students' Union, and I want to begin by saying a massive well done to all of our Student Groups, Student Leaders and of course our incredible volunteers for your hard work. I think it's fair to say it's not been quite the year we expected, but despite that you've achieved some amazing things. You should be proud, not only of the work you've delivered whilst on campus, but also how you've continued to work to support your students, and the communities beyond them, during this challenging time. So please, relax, reflect, and enjoy the celebration – you've definitely earned it.

So, without further ado, on to the first award. And that's the Volunteering Project of the Year award. This award is to recognise a volunteering project, delivered within the last 12 months, that has gone above and beyond to positively impact either the local, national or global community. All the nominees for the award were incredibly strong, and it was difficult to get down to the finalists, but here they are.

So first up we've got Sexpression, a group who provide Sex and Relationships Education classes in local schools, as well as promoting education and sex positivity on campus.

Pro Bono, a group that run nine different projects, all aiming to raise awareness and support a different cause through volunteering in real-world legal cases.

And finally, The Community First Responders. A scheme which sees students from the University of Leicester and De Montfort University attend 999 calls in first response.

So the winner of this award is one of the largest student-led volunteering groups. They support asylum seekers claiming refuge, provide legal advice, and work to exonerate those who have experienced miscarriages of justice, to name just a few of their few projects! Congratulations to the winners, Pro Bono.

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

[Acceptance Video starts]

Elle (Pro Bono Chief Officer):

On behalf of Pro Bono, we are thrilled to be nominated for four Student Groups awards this year, alongside some amazing groups. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of all of our members.

Harneet (Pro Bono Secretary):

The society has shown what working together and striving for excellence looks like, through all the fantastic work and contributions to the community.

Wray (Lawyers Without Borders Team Member):

I have to say that my favourite event of this year was Lawyers Without Borders 'Stop and Search' event in conjunction with the Race Equality Centre.

Harrison (Amicus Director):

Pro Bono Week, it was a fantastic set of events run by all of the different projects, and a great opportunity for all of us to collaborate and work together.

Emily (Pro Bono Treasurer):

When we held our annual Meet and Greet it was a huge success, and it was so lovely to see the hard work of everyone pay off.

Ryan (Amicus Research Team):

The Pro Bono lecture at the start of the year. It was exciting because I got to see how passionate everyone was towards their respective projects and initiatives.

Niamh (Miscarriages of Justice Research Team Leader):

It has allowed me to not only gain invaluable insight and experience into the world of criminal law, but to develop my skills.

Sonia (Lawyers Without Borders Director):

Our work reached countries like Iran and Tanzania, whilst also focussing on local issues. And the versatility of Pro Bono. It's amazing.

Wray (Lawyers Without Borders Team Member):

Congratulations Pro Bono Society in all your hard work.

Ryan (Amicus Research Team):

Congrats! Keep it up!

[Acceptance Video ends]

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Lauren Heria (Activities and Volunteering Manager):

The finalists for this year's Peer Support Award are: Tianrun Qin, Yuanzhi Sun and Thariq Maulana. The winner is Yuanzhi Sun. Yuanzhi is a student at the Dalian Leicester Institute in China. The Institute currently has around 600 undergraduate students, and all of them are registered University of Leicester students. It's been fantastic to welcome nominations from Dalian for the first time this year, and the quality of the nominations was outstanding.

Our award winner has delivered a highly successful mentoring scheme engaging over 60 students, which was a third of the students on their course. They're continuously and actively seeking feedback to improve their service to students, to continue to support their peers better and better. Congratulations on your well-deserved win!

[Acceptance Video plays]

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

Next up is our main fundraising award. Every year, so many of our students come together to raise money for local, national and international causes. This is known as RAG, which stands for Raise and Give. From athletics events to sponsored shaves and waxes, this year we've seen some really innovative, incredible charity fundraising from our students.

And what's more, when the UK went into lockdown, your efforts and generosity didn't stop. You banded together, across the community, and across the student body, to raise money for our Health Heroes as well as several other vital causes. All of the nominees for the RAG Award have not only engaged and entertained, but crucially they've ensured that our students can have a positive impact on those most in need. The RAG Award finalists have gone above and beyond, showing careful planning and creativity to deliver a fantastic fundraising project. The finalists for this award are...

Burlesque, for their fundraising showcases in aid of Jasmine House, a local centre that supports sexual assault survivors.

Islamic Society, who raised over £11,000 in their annual Islamic Relief Charity Week.

Sandy Mohamed, for delivering multiple collaborative charity events on behalf of the Netball Club.

And Women's Rugby, who swam the channel not once, but twice in aid of Just One Ocean.

The winner of this award hosted multiple events which empowered performers and attendees to celebrate and be confident in their body. They ensured that everybody was welcomed to take part, no matter who you are, your self-confidence or your experience levels. The winner is Burlesque.

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

[Acceptance Video starts]

Katie (Burlesque President):

Thank you for nominating us for the Raise and Give Award, this is an award that I really really wanted to aim for this year. We raised money mostly for Jasmine House Leicester Rape Crisis Centre, it's a really important charity it does a lot of really good work. This year we've raised.. one thousand.. oh one thousand three hundred and something? So quite a lot!

We were hoping to raise even more obviously, but unfortunately our last show has been cancelled. But we will be doing an extra one hopefully next year, to kind of make up for it. We've also supported other charities such as CoppaFeel, HeForShe, and we were hoping to support Student Minds as well. So yeah thank you for nominating us for this!

[Acceptance Video ends]

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

Following this award, I would like to announce the overall RAG total for this academic year so far. This total equates to all of the money that's been raised for various charities by our Student Groups and student-led projects. The total is... 23,876 pounds – and 51 pence.

This total continues to rise, as so many of you are still actively fundraising throughout the pandemic. I'd just like to say a huge congratulations to all of this year's fundraisers. Whether it was big or small, whatever charity that you cared about that you raised money for, it's been a real pleasure to support you, and I hope that you're really proud.

On that note, I'm excited to announce our first performance of the evening, which is an award-winning routine from LUSUMA's Medics and Postgraduate Dance Team. Don't go away, because we'll be back soon to introduce our new award for this year, which is the Peer Mentor award.

[Medics and Postgraduate Dance performance plays]

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Lauren Heria (Activities and Volunteering Manager):

Our Peer Mentoring Scheme aims to help students settle into life at university through peer-to-peer support. Students in their second year or beyond volunteer as mentors, and offer support and advice throughout the year to the new students. The finalists of this award are Peer Mentors that have gone above and beyond to provide brilliant support for their mentees, to ensure that they have felt safe and settled within the University community. The finalists for Peer Mentor of the Year are... Kat Velasco Boyer, Maryam Farid and Sarah Chambers.

The winner of this award has continued to offer advice and support to their mentees beyond the initial mentoring year. They have also delivered such a high standard of written communication that the department has used their emails as examples when training new Peer Mentors. The winner of this award was nominated by one of her mentees, who said her mentor always goes above and beyond to bring out the best in her. And the winner of this award is Kat Velasco Boyer.

[Acceptance Video starts]

Kat:

Thank you for the award. I didn't expect to be shortlisted for the award, let alone win it. Being recognised as Peer Mentor of the Year, for all my hard work during the two years I've been part of the Peer Mentoring Scheme, is really special given that it's my last year at university. Thank you, I really appreciate it. As a first year student, who came to the University of Leicester, never having lived away from home before, I found it difficult when I encountered personal or academic problems to find someone relatable that I could tell my issues to. So that's why I would say my greatest achievement as a Peer Mentor is definitely being that relatable person who first years can talk to and turn to, when they find that they have a personal or academic problem.

Thank you again for the award. I really wish I could have received it in person, but these are definitely challenging times that we're all facing. If I could send one message it would be to stay safe, and that I wish you all the best for the future. From me and my dad, who works for the NHS as a key worker, we hope you all stay safe.

Kat's Dad:

We'll get through this together. Come on!

[Acceptance Video ends]

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

I'm super excited to move on to the next award which is the Frank May Cup for Volunteering. The Frank May Cup is awarded each academic year to a student who has made a huge positive contribution to the wider community and to the university through unpaid volunteering. All of the finalists in this category have demonstrated outstanding commitment, by volunteering on a regular basis and going above and beyond what was ever expected of them. We've had so many nominations for this prestigious award, and it was really humbling to read through them and hear how many of our students have been really devoted to improving the lives of others, as well as the impact that it's had on their own personal development. The finalists for the Frank May Cup for volunteering are...

Millie Salt, for her dedication to the Leicester charity Warning Zone and her active role in the Homeless Outreach Society.

Tasha Krywald, for her outstanding efforts supporting young carers, and her work as this year's Part-Time Accessibility Officer for the Students' Union.

Jonathan Ince, who is a student leader of the Leicester University Community First Responders scheme, and attends 999 calls, volunteering behalf of the East Midlands Ambulance Service.

Amy Pickering, for her commitment to the Leicestershire Constabulary as a volunteer Special Constable.

And the winner is Jonathan Ince!

[Acceptance Video starts]

Jonathan:

Hi everyone, this is just a really quick video to say thank you so much to everybody who nominated me for the Frank May Cup for Volunteering. Over the last year I've been responding to 999 calls with the Leicester University First Responders and it's been an absolutely brilliant opportunity. I'd say to anybody, who's thought of doing any volunteering at all, just go for it. It's really great for you, it also supports the community. So once again I say thank you, and I hope to see you all soon.

[Acceptance Video ends]

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

Huge congratulations Jonathan, and well done to all of our finalists and winners from all of the Volunteering and Fundraising Awards! The bar was set so incredibly high this year and I really hope that everybody who's watching can look back and be proud of their own personal achievements, because there are so many. If you do decide that you want to get involved in volunteering we've created a guide to how to volunteer during the pandemic on our website, so you can go and check that out afterwards, but for now we're going to have a short break with a routine from Cheer and Stunt's Ruby Team. We'll be back soon to start our Student Group Awards, but please join me in welcoming the Leicester Panthers to your screen.

[Cheer and Stunt performance plays]

Hamza Rehman (Activities Inclusion Coordinator):

Welcome back everyone, my name is Hamza and I'm the Activities Inclusion Coordinator. We're here to move on to the second half of the event and so I'm just going to begin with announcing our first Student Group award. So our first Student Group award is the Student Group Collaboration of the Year Award, and this year a lot of our students have shown innovation in fostering partnerships with fellow groups. The finalists for this award have all shown dedication to delivering successful events and a high level of professionalism as well. Not only that, a lot of our Student Groups this year were able to build a community on campus and they were able to raise a lot of money for that they picked too. So whilst it was hard and we were only able to shortlist a few Student Groups, so this year the shortlist for this award is...

Islamic Society for their inter-society charity football tournament, in which 12 student groups took part.

Book Club and Homeless Outreach for their collaborative book drive for local homelessness charities.

Islamic Society again and Amnesty International for their series of events with guest speakers who were raising awareness of injustice.

And our fourth finalist is the Social Prescribing event, organised by the GP Society, Nutritank and the Lifestyle Medicine Society.

So these are again truly fantastic initiatives but there can only be one winner unfortunately. The winning collaboration invited speakers to campus to share their experiences of injustices and oppression as a result of their faith. So the winner of this year's Student Group Collaboration of the Year Award is... Islamic Society and Amnesty International! Their events were very emotional but educational as well, and they allowed students to understand how to make a positive impact on local and international issues through the student groups. Well done to you guys, now I'm going to hand back over to Lauren to announce our Student Group Development of the Year Award.

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Lauren Heria (Activities and Volunteering Manager):

Student Groups are designed to engage, excite and unite. And as a student community, you are always coming together to create new groups to enhance the student experience and support those around you. And this year has been no exception, with over 30 new student groups created in the past 12 months. This award recognises the diverse achievements of those new groups, and in particular, the group that has shown exceptional drive in increasing their membership and achieving the aims of their society. The finalists for the New Student Group of the Year are... The Yoga Society, Women in Finance and The Cocktail Society.

The winner of this award has grown from nothing to 72 members. They've delivered varied events across multiple locations, and taken part in Students' Union initiatives such as Alcohol Awareness Week and RAG Week. The winner is The Cocktail Society!

[Acceptance Video plays]

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

The Union Activities team is always so impressed to see the amount of Student Group Committees that work so hard to grow and develop their offering. This was definitely reflected in the sheer amount of nominations for our next award, which is Student Group Development of the Year. It was fantastic to read through all of the nominations and see the strides that you have been taking towards sustained growth and continuation of your groups. The competition was really tough for this one, as it was our most popular award, but the shortlist for Student Group Development is: Sexpression, Burlesque and Book Club.

The winner of this award has shown continued growth from only 5 members to 19 weekly members. They have massively expanded their activities and organised off-campus trips for the very first time. The group has also played an active part in Students' Union and University campaigns such as celebrating the LGBTQ+ community and Black History Month, all through their key objective which is to share a love of reading. The winner is the Book Club. Congratulations!

[Acceptance Video starts]

Keira (Book Club President):

It's been such a privilege to run Book Club this year; I've loved every second of it, and our brilliant members who are constantly enthusiastic have made it so worthwhile. So we have achieved so much more than we ever thought we could, what we hoped for and what we planned, and it's just been an incredible year and I hope that that continues next year! So thank you so much for this, we really really appreciate it.

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Emma (Book Club Committee Member):

I love Book Club. Being on the Committee has been amazing, and our members are fantastic. All our events have been so much fun, and it's just been a pleasure to be a part of. And I'm so excited to be a part of it next year as well. And thank you so much for this award, it really means a lot.

[Acceptance Video ends]

Lauren Heria (Activities and Volunteering Manager):

Well done Book Club on that well deserved win! So, as we all know, organising and running events is a large part of Student Group life, whether that's weekly training sessions or a large off-campus trip. This award is to celebrate a Student Group that has delivered an outstanding event that was truly innovative and benefitted both its members but also the wider community. So, the finalists for Student Group Event of the Year are:

Burlesque, for their charity showcases.

SCRUBS, for their academic events, including the Surgical Careers Roadshow.

And Men's Rugby Union, for their LGBTQ+ History Month event.

And the winner of Event of the Year not only engaged plenty of students but also saw members of the local community and further afield travel to attend. The event welcomed professional rugby referee, Craig Maxwell-Key, to campus. He shared his experiences of coming out, as well as his advice on breaking down toxic masculinity in sport. The Student Group Event of the Year goes to Men's Rugby Union.

[Acceptance Video starts]

Men's Rugby Union Member:

On behalf of the Men's Rugby Union Club I'd just like to say thank you to the Students' Union, all of our members, and the University for helping us be shortlisted for Student Group Event of the Year. We're really grateful to gain recognition of all of our hard work this year, and we're looking forward to taking this positivity forward into the coming year. So again in recognition of this hard work, it means a lot to us. So thank you very much!

[Acceptance Video ends]

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

Every year, our Student Groups run a variety of campaigns on a whole breadth of topics, from raising awareness for certain causes to breaking down barriers. The recipient of the Student Group Campaign of the Year will have delivered a well-run, accessible campaign, that has contributed to their Student Group's development and benefitted the community. The shortlist for Student Group Campaign of the Year is:

Homeless Outreach for their Winter Coat Drive.

Islamic Society for their Wellbeing Week.

And Marrow, for their successful donor drive in Hero Week.

The winner of this award delivered a full week of varied activity, which was accessible to the whole student body. The campaign focused on supporting students to understand and better support their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others through prayer, yoga, positive mental health and much more. The winner is Islamic Society for their Wellbeing Week. Huge congratulations, and let's have a look at what Islamic Society have been up to this year.

[Acceptance Video plays]

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

Next up is our Outstanding Contribution to Community award, which is designed to highlight a Student Group that has shown particular devotion to improving a community, whether that be on campus, local, national or even the global community. All of these finalists have delivered fantastic opportunities that encourage and empower fellow students to make a change. The shortlist for this award is Book Club, Sexpression and Pro Bono.

The winner of this award provides extensive local services to support the community. They deliver a free legal advice clinic every week in the Students' Union, and provide legal education to communities who need it the most. Beyond advice and education, the group has also undertaken fundraising and campaigning for a variety of legal aid charities. The winner is... Pro Bono!

[Acceptance Video starts]

Elle (Pro Bono Chief Officer):

On behalf of Pro Bono, we are thrilled to be nominated for four Student Groups awards this year, alongside some amazing groups. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of all of our members.

Harneet (Pro Bono Secretary):

The society has shown what working together and striving for excellence looks like, through all the fantastic work and contributions to the community.

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Wray (Lawyers Without Borders Team Member):

I have to say that my favourite event of this year was Lawyers Without Borders 'Stop and Search' event in conjunction with the Race Equality Centre.

Harrison (Amicus Director):

Pro Bono Week, it was a fantastic set of events run by all of the different projects, and a great opportunity for all of us to collaborate and work together.

Emily (Pro Bono Treasurer):

When we held our annual Meet and Greet it was a huge success, and it was so lovely to see the hard work of everyone pay off.

Ryan (Amicus Research Team):

The Pro Bono lecture at the start of the year. It was exciting because I got to see how passionate everyone was towards their respective projects and initiatives.

Niamh (Miscarriages of Justice Research Team Leader):

It has allowed me to not only gain invaluable insight and experience into the world of criminal law, but to develop my skills.

Sonia (Lawyers Without Borders Director):

Our work reached countries like Iran and Tanzania, whilst also focussing on local issues. And the versatility of Pro Bono. It's amazing.

Wray (Lawyers Without Borders Team Member):

Congratulations Pro Bono Society in all your hard work.

Ryan (Amicus Research Team):

Congrats! Keep it up!

[Acceptance Video ends]

Hamza Rehman (Activities Inclusion Coordinator):

So guys, it's time what you've all been waiting for - the Student Group of the Year Awards. The University of Leicester Students' Union is home to over 250 groups, and our range of student-led activities has never been so extensive. The category of awards is aimed at celebrating all the Student Groups that have excelled within the specialist area, as well as demonstrated dedication to ensuring sustainable group development, inclusivity and accessibility as well.

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Our first category is Academic and Politics Student Group of the Year. The shortlist for this award is SCRUBS the surgical society, LUSUMA who are our medics society, and also Pro Bono as well. So the winner of this award has exceeded all of its aims and objectives for this academic year, as well as raising upwards of £3500 through their charity fundraising efforts. From their multi-event intro week at the beginning of the year, they have continued to support their members in various capacities, and they're still doing this now in spite of lockdown which is amazing. The winner is... [drumrolls on seat] LUSUMA! [Clapping] Congratulations guys, you guys have been amazing!

[Acceptance Video plays]

Hamza Rehman (Activities Inclusion Coordinator):

So, our next category is National, Cultural and Faith Student Group of the Year. Now I just want to personally say that all of our National, Cultural and Faith Student Groups have been absolutely amazing. You guys have done so much for our students in general, and you allowed a space and you created a community on campus that I don't think had existed previously. So I just want to thank you guys for all your efforts and the time and energy that you have put in your Student Group and also ensuring that your members feel like there is a space for them on campus, and that's the most important thing.

So whilst it was really hard to pick finalists let alone winners, I just want to thank all of you guys for the amazing work that you have been doing. But unfortunately like I said there's only one winner, so let's continue. The finalists are Christian Union, ACS the African Caribbean Society and Islamic Society. So I'm proud to say that the winner has delivered an exceptional experience to its members through cultural events, careers development opportunities, and bringing in a number of external speakers to enrich their activities. So the winner is... [drumrolls on seat] ACS! [Clapping] Well done guys, you guys have been amazing this year! Congratulations!

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

[Acceptance Video starts]

ACS Member 1:

What ACS means to me is that it's allowed me the chance to celebrate my culture unapologetically.

ACS Member 2:

What's up people, it's your boy Jermaine aka DJ []. And I just want to say the one thing ACS means to me is family, because since I arrived at Leicester University they've shown me so much love and support in every endeavour I take place in. The love has just been immense, so the one thing I would say is family.

ACS Member 3:

Thanks for voting for ACS!

ACS Member 4:

Wow! On behalf of ACS, thank you for this award.

ACS Member 5:

Thanks for voting for ACS!

ACS Member 6:

Thank you for voting ACS.

ACS Member 7:

Thanks for voting for ACS.

ACS Member 8:

Thank you so much guys for voting for ACS! We appreciate it so much, we're so happy that you all found some value in what we're trying to do, and we just hope for bigger and better things so thank you once again for voting for us.

[Acceptance Video ends]

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Mia Nembhard (Sports Officer 2019/2020):

Hi everyone, I'm Mia, I'm your current Sports Officer, and I'm really proud to be announcing the finalists for the Sport and Team Leicester Student Group of the Year Award which of course are, big shout out and well done to Ultimate Frisbee, DanceSport and Running and Athletics Club. The winner of this category has been amazing, I think for a couple of years now consistently. They've held their own competition, they've attended multiples all whilst making sure that they have been accessible and inclusive in terms of allowing students who have different skill levels, or ability, to join. I've worked with you personally, you've been great! So really truly well done because this is a huge, huge award, so big shout out and well done to... DanceSport! Well done guys, you're amazing, well done again.

[Acceptance Video plays]

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

I'm really proud to be able to announce our next award, which is for the Charity, Support and Campaigning Student Groups. As I've personally worked with all of these finalists this year, I'm really pleased to say that they are all fantastic young professionals who are truly devoted to their causes. The shortlist is Homeless Outreach, Sexpression and Pro Bono. The winners of this award have taught open and inclusive Sex and Relationships Education to over 1000 students in local schools. They have worked incredibly hard to educate the University community, for example by organising a campaign for HIV testing week in collaboration with local charity Trade Sexual Health, where they did free HIV testing on campus. Their committee was also crowned Committee of the Year at their national conference. The winner is Sexpression!

[Acceptance Video starts]

Jacob (Sexpression President):

Hello everyone, just want to say a big thank you for this award on behalf of Sexpression Leicester. I'd also like to shout out all of the lovely volunteers who went out of their way to teach in schools this year. What the society stands for is so important and I'm just so grateful to be part of it. Also, a big thank you to anyone who nominated and voted for us. Yeah, I just hope that we're all taking care of each other during this quarantine period and supporting all of our amazing frontline workers.

Hannah (Sexpression Secretary):

Woo! Thank you so much! Jacob absolutely smashed it this year as President, hopefully next year I can keep the momentum going and we can get even bigger and better and do even more teaching in schools and spread even more sex positivity.

Takunda (Sexpression Social Secretary):

Yay! Thank you! Sexpression has been such a good part of my year and I can't wait to see it continue.

[Acceptance Video ends]

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Lauren Heria (Activities and Volunteering Manager):

The Common Interest category covers a whole range of topics from food-based groups to Anime and Manga to Medieval Re-enactment. The shortlist for this incredibly varied category is the Cocktail Society, Book Club, and Women in Finance. The winner of this category has delivered frequent, well-run and well-attended events, as well as expanded to deliver off-campus trips for the first time. The group also went above and beyond their constitutional aims by collaborating with the Students' Union and the University Library to promote books written by underrepresented and marginalised voices. Huge congratulations to our winners, Book Club!

The final category is the Performance and Media Group of the Year. Once again we had an incredibly strong pool of nominations, and the shortlist for this award is Burlesque, Chamber Choir and Dance Performance Society. The winner of this award promotes core values of body confidence, self-love and sex positivity. Through these values, the group have delivered a range of new classes, and raised over £1000 for charitable causes. They have even continued to deliver their classes online through lockdown. The winner of this award is Burlesque Society.

[Acceptance Video starts]

Katie (Burlesque President):

Hi! So I'd just like to thank everyone for nominating the Burlesque Society for Student Group of the Year. This means a lot to all current, past and future members of the society. It's lovely to see how liberal and accepting everyone's attitudes have become of burlesque, I think it's been a lot of breaking down misconceptions about it, and yeah it's just a really lovely society to be a part of, everyone's like a family. Even during the current pandemic, you know, it could be easy to lose touch but everyone has pulled together. So yeah thank you, and also if you are around next year, feel free to join, we would love to have you! So yeah, thanks!

[Acceptance Video ends]

Elina Garton (Activities Project Coordinator):

We've now reached our final award of the evening, and I'd like to say a huge thanks to everybody who's stuck with us this far and is still watching. Last, but most certainly not least, we have our overall Student Group of the Year Award for the academic year 2019/2020. All of these Student Groups have delivered an exceptional experience for their members. The winner will have shown a dedication to sustainable growth but also displayed areas of development, delivered fantastic events, and enhanced both the local community and the wider Student Experience significantly.

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

The finalists for the Student Group of the Year are:

DanceSport

Burlesque

Book Club

LUSUMA

Sexpression

And ACS

With the huge amount of nominations that we received this year, it was a very very close contest and our panel had a really really hard time choosing from all of the fantastic Student Groups. I'd just like to say a huge thank you to everybody who's taken part, and thank you for your contribution to the University community. It really is appreciated. There can only be one Student Group of the Year, and the winner is... Book Club! Huge congratulations to all of their hardworking committee and their amazing members! Let's see their video again.

[Acceptance Video starts]

Keira (Book Club President):

It's been such a privilege to run Book Club this year; I've loved every second of it, and our brilliant members who are constantly enthusiastic have made it so worthwhile. So we have achieved so much more than we ever thought we could, what we hoped for and what we planned, and it's just been an incredible year and I hope that that continues next year! So thank you so much for this, we really really appreciate it.

Emma (Book Club Committee Member):

I love Book Club. Being on the Committee has been amazing, and our members are fantastic. All our events have been so much fun, and it's just been a pleasure to be a part of. And I'm so excited to be a part of it next year as well. And thank you so much for this award, it really means a lot.

[Acceptance Video ends]

TRANSCRIPT

Leics Celebrate You - Student Opportunities Awards 2019/2020

Gareth Oughton (CEO):

Hi, my name is Gareth and I'm the Chief Executive at the University of Leicester Students' Union. I'm really privileged to be able to say a huge thank you to all of you and be able to close today's event off. Leics Celebrate's a really important part of what we do, to be able to recognise and celebrate the incredible achievements that you've all made over the course of the year. You know, whether you were nominated, whether you were shortlisted, whether you won, or whether you were none of those things, and you've just done incredible things over the course of the year. I'm really pleased that you've been able to join us, and paused to reflect and celebrate some of the incredible things that students here at Leicester have done.

And you really do. Student Groups are the difference between people staying at University and the difference between people making those deep lifelong friendships and connections and not. I know this from personal experience from the society that I was part of when I was a student twenty years ago. It was through the society I was a member of that I was lucky enough to meet my wife, and I was lucky enough to meet my closest friends. And it's those type of connections that in leading your groups, leading your activities, you're responsible for making too.

So thank you, for what you do, thank you so much. I'd also like to say a quick thank you to the SU staff team who were responsible for helping re-shape today's event after we had to reschedule it! So a huge thank you to them, but also again, finally, a huge thank you to all of you for everything that you've done. Thank you and goodbye! Well done.

END