

# STORY

## TELL US YOUR

### Celebrating our unsung heroes



2010  
**THE AWARDS**  
AWARD WINNER

UPGRADE  
**YOUR**  
FUTURE



BIRMINGHAM  
CITY  
University

[bcu.ac.uk](http://bcu.ac.uk)

# INTRODUCTION



**David Tidmarsh**

Vice-Chancellor

Here at Birmingham City University, we believe in the talents of our staff, students and alumni. That's why we offer outstanding support for students, why we are involving them in the design of our new city centre campus and why we are spearheading the new Change Academy initiative to employ more of our students in roles around the University. The past year has also seen the launch of the BEST awards, to recognise the University's achievements in the field of employability.

The 'Tell Us Your Story' awards were launched alongside our 'Upgrade Your Future' marketing campaign to celebrate the unsung heroes of the University. Students and staff were invited to nominate colleagues, fellow students and alumni who they felt had gone the extra mile to achieve success in their chosen field, or help others to do so. We were delighted by the response which showed once again the level of support we offer our students, and how many of them go on to make the most of it.

I'm delighted to see these achievements being recognised and look forward to seeing even more members of the University community getting involved in the awards next year.

# WELCOME



**Kathryn Jones**

**Director of Marketing  
and Communications**

At Birmingham City University, we are developing a growing national reputation for our outstanding support for students and the innovative learning and teaching methods that put students at the heart of the learning experience.

We are extremely proud of the way our staff, students and alumni take an active role in supporting our goal to develop what we've called 'future-proof' graduates; graduates who leave this University with the skills, knowledge and experience for a successful career.

In 2011, we set out our stall to the public with our 'Upgrade Your Future' advertising campaign, recently shortlisted for a Marketing Excellence Award by the Chartered Institute of Marketing. To complement this, the University launched an internal competition, 'Tell Us Your Story', to uncover and highlight the rising 'stars' who are making a difference within our community – staff who go the extra mile to support our students, students who are working hard to upgrade their own futures and alumni who have gone on to achieve success in their chosen fields.

One of the most exciting things about the project has been that many of the staff featured here were actually nominated by their own students – sometimes several times – and it is gratifying to see that those who study with us are so passionate about highlighting the expertise of those who teach them. We have also been inspired to hear about the success of some of our students, and how committed and motivated they are to making the most of their time with us, as well as our extremely successful alumni who credit their University experience for their achievements in a wide variety of areas.

In its inaugural year, 'Tell Us Your Story' resulted in over 60 excellent and inspiring submissions, which made the judging process particularly difficult. The quality of the nominations was extremely high, but we have now selected the overall winners in each category.

I'd like to pass on my personal congratulations to all of our winners, finalists and indeed everyone who was nominated, whose stories are featured in this booklet. Thank you to everybody who took the time to get involved.

The 2011 'Tell Us Your Story' Awards have set the standard, but we hope they will inspire others across the University to recognise and shout about some of the exceptional work they see going on around them in 2012.

## FINALISTS - STAFF

For this category, we were seeking a member of staff who has demonstrated innovative teaching and excellent support for their students. All of these candidates demonstrated exceptional skills, talent and desire to help their students succeed in their chosen subjects.



**Graham Wright - Winner**

**Faculty of Education,  
Law and Social Sciences  
Lecturer and Director of Mooting**

Graham has helped to put the Law School on the map by leading the Mooting Society to success, devoting much of his spare time to moots and events, which help to build students' confidence and experience.

After teaching for many years at a local FE college, Graham started teaching some hours as a part-time law lecturer at what was then Birmingham Polytechnic in 1987. He was appointed to a full-time post in 1988 and since then has taught across a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, specialising in Criminal Law, Criminology and Legal Skills.

He said: "What inspires me after all these years is to still be in the privileged position of educating young people – associating with, supporting and encouraging students as they strive to attain their successes. For the past 10 years, I have been Director of Mooting and this has been a particularly fulfilling aspect of my time teaching at the University."



**Matthew Cremin**

**Faculty of Education,  
Law and Social Sciences  
Programme Director, Criminology**

Matthew has been nominated for his continuous efforts to engage criminology students in a more practical style of learning through the implementation of 'real-world' placements.

Having worked for a parliamentary select committee, he joined the staff team who delivered a politics degree from the Law School, at what was then Birmingham Polytechnic, 20 years ago.

He said: "I'm inspired by getting students to graduate successfully with good degrees of a high classification and with loads of employability."

## FINALISTS - STAFF



**Lindsay Yardley**

**Faculty of Health  
Senior Lecturer,  
Simulation Skills and Learning**

Lindsay has played an integral part in the creation of the SPACE learning facility in the Faculty of Health, where students can practice skills outside formal taught sessions with the support of a facilitator, and passes her enthusiasm onto students whenever she can.

She joined the University as a mental health nursing student in September 2000 and has not looked back since. After graduating in 2003, she returned to lecture part-time in 2005 and full-time from 2007. She is committed to enhancing the student experience and constantly works to support her own and her colleagues' personal and professional development, in order to positively influence student learning.

She said: "The student experience is undoubtedly at the heart of my working practice. I have a genuine enthusiasm and motivation for building a knowledgeable community where students and staff exchange and develop ideas through innovation and change."

## FINALISTS - STUDENTS

Reading through the student submissions, what stands out is how well-prepared our students are for the world of work. We were looking for a student with a track record of academic excellence and proven entrepreneurial skills, who has also made a significant contribution to both the University and the wider community.



**Siobhan Freeman - Winner**

**Faculty of Education,  
Law and Social Sciences  
LLB (Hons) Law**

Joining the University as a mature student and single mum, Siobhan built her employability prospects through involvement in the Mooting Society and has now been awarded a £6,000 legal scholarship from Lincoln's Inn, one of the UK's four Inns of Court which play a major role in preparing students for call to the Bar. Given her family situation, Siobhan wanted to stay close to home, and found her experiences of going through Clearing to get a place at university to be very positive. She said: "My daughter inspired me to go back to education and my little family now inspires me further to succeed. I mooted a lot for the University and spent a huge amount of time studying so now is the time to concentrate on my family whilst balancing a steadily-built career."



**Sophie Rowe**

**Faculty of Education,  
Law and Social Sciences  
MA Criminology**

Passionate about criminology and enhancing employability, Sophie has won several Faculty awards, as well as recognition from external bodies for her extra-curricular activities.

She aims to pursue a career in the field of criminal justice policy, working closely with offenders, victims and the public in order to make a real contribution in tackling recidivism rates. Given Birmingham City University's expertise in this area, it was a natural choice for her.

She said: "I was drawn to the University after I attended an Open Day and observed a mock lecture delivered by leading Criminologist Professor David Wilson which I found very inspirational. I also felt the University had a welcoming and supportive quality."

# FINALISTS - STUDENTS



**Roland Ruhumuriza**

**Birmingham City Business School  
MA Management and International  
Business**

Dedicated to enterprise and entrepreneurship, Roland was founder and President (2010/11) of the Entrepreneurship Society, and is currently undertaking a Student Academic Partners (SAP) project to further develop this important area of work.

Originally from Rwanda, he was attracted to Birmingham City University by the range of skills offered on its joint honours courses. He enrolled on the four-year sandwich course in 2006, which included a year in industry, and went on to take a Master's degree the following year.

He said: "I wanted to have a course that would provide me with good business knowledge and at the same time great management skills. When I found the BA (Hons) Business and Management course, I knew that it was the one for me. While at the University I've always been encouraged to strive for success and to remember that I don't need to do it alone."



**Lucy Smith**

**Birmingham City Business School  
BSc (Hons) Business and Business Law**

Young mum Lucy was determined to upgrade her future and that of her son by continuing with her A Levels and then joining Birmingham City University's Business and Business Law course.

She managed her time carefully, successfully combining being a parent, studying, being a student rep and working at the Students' Union. After securing a first in the Logistics module in her second year, she decided that was where she saw her future, and secured a top graduate placement with international logistics specialists DHL.

She said: "I decided to pursue logistics as a career and during my third year, applied for a job with DHL on their Operations Management Graduate Scheme. Out of 3,500 applicants I have become one of the final 40 to be offered a position. I'm really proud of what I've achieved over the past three years!"

## FINALISTS - ALUMNI

The finalists in our alumni category represent many of the values which the University stands for. In making our decision, we looked to identify an exceptional individual, with a proven record of success in their chosen field and considerable entrepreneurial skills. In addition, this individual must have also made a real positive impact to the community.



**Ben Croft - Winner**

**BA (Hons) Marketing,  
2006**

At just 28, this social media marketing entrepreneur is already President of the World Business and Executive Coach Summit and running a world-leading consultancy company – while still having time to do extensive charity work.

Ben was attracted to the University, as it was one of the few in the country that offered a marketing degree with a placement year. Since leaving the University, he has literally travelled the globe, spending at least six months in six separate continents, and living and consulting all over the world too.

He said: "I am driven by a number of things. I have an unrelenting drive to see what is possible, to test the boundaries of my abilities, in business particularly. I am also driven by my family who have always supported me massively in what I have done, even some of the more crazy things I've got up to."



**Fraser Ntukula**

**BA (Hons) Visual Communication, 2009  
BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies  
Art and Design, 2006**

Local animator and motion designer Fraser brings short films to life; his animation work has been used extensively on the internet and most notably on the BBC technology news homepage and ITV Meridian weather forecasts.

He was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and first came to the UK in 2005 as an international student. The University was recommended to him by another former BIAD graduate, and its location at the heart of a multi-cultural city made it the ideal choice.

He said: "The ever changing technological landscape solves many design problems while introducing new challenges. Trying to stay on top of that is the main reason I keep going."



## FINALISTS - ALUMNI



**Miriam Rowe**

**MA Jewellery, Silversmithing  
and Related Products, 2010**

Graduate and entrepreneur Miriam has used her experience, skills and the contacts gained during her time at the School of Jewellery to open her own business and exhibit a unique line of jewellery worldwide.

Originally from the USA, she moved to the UK to attend Birmingham City University and has stayed in the city ever since, setting up her jewellery business as well as working with our International Office to spread the word about the University's expertise.

She said: "There were many reasons I chose to study at Birmingham City University, but the main one is because the School of Jewellery is so highly-ranked and well-known. I did my Bachelor's Degree at a small jewellery school in the United States, and it was a great experience, but for my Master's Degree, I chose to come to a university with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment."



**Steve Thornton**

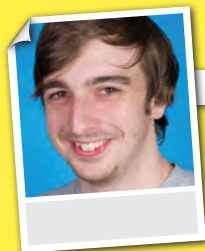
**BA (Hons) Media and  
Communication, 2011**

Returning to education after eight years and graduating with a first class honours degree, Steve has recently been nominated for a Sony Radio Award as well as setting up his own audio slideshow company Fourseventy Media, with fellow graduate Chris Williams.

Having left school with one GCSE, he had a variety of jobs before returning to education and being inspired to work in the media. On placement at Kerrang radio, he spoke to a number of people who had attended Birmingham City University and saw how a number of them had gone on to secure roles in industry.

He said: "I firmly believe in job satisfaction and working in an environment and career where you want to go to work, not like before where working was done for the sake of it. I had already experienced that and believed in myself to do better and strive for better things, not necessarily financially, but creatively."

## FINALISTS - ALUMNI



**Chris Williams**

**BA (Hons) Media and  
Communication, 2011**

After graduating with first class honours and being nominated for a Sony Radio Award, Chris has set up his own company at the age of just 21, making the most of his media knowledge and entrepreneurial thinking.

Chris said he chose Birmingham City University because of its strong links with industry and proximity to his home in Stourbridge. After taking a MediaFly broadcast training course at Birmingham radio station Galaxy, and with contacts already established in the local industry, he decided to cement those with a relevant degree.

He said: "I'm a perfectionist – after starting my radio career at such an early age, my eye for detail allowed me to put nothing less than 100 per cent into everything I produce."



# NOMINEES - STAFF

Our staff are key to students upgrading their futures, regularly exceeding expectations and putting students first. Whether it is through innovative teaching, world-leading research or award-winning student support and engagement, they make a real difference on a daily basis.



**Ron Austin**

Faculty of Technology,  
Engineering and the  
Environment  
Senior Lecturer

Ron encourages and pushes students to think outside the box. He uses podcasts for lectures, gives moral support and encouragement, and constantly keeps students informed of graduate employment opportunities.



**John Barrett**

Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
Lecturer, Visual  
Communication

Ever open to new ways to improve the offer to our students, John is well connected to industry and is always relating this to his own work, leading to him being highly regarded by all of his students.



**Rehan Bhana**

Faculty of Technology,  
Engineering and the  
Environment  
Senior Lecturer

Rehan has single-handedly created networks with European universities and companies to give our students the opportunity to take part in overseas work experience.



**Peter Burke**

International Office  
International Admissions  
Officer

Peter is recognised for his commitment to the international student experience through enhancing the student recruitment and admissions process.



**Warren Chugtai**

Student Services  
Work Experience  
Coordinator

A true example of recruiting our own talent, University graduate Warren now ensures that valuable work experience is always available to current students and graduates by developing opportunities with key recruiters.



**Clive Colledge**

Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
Lecturer, Visual  
Communication

Clive chairs the international and national congress on advertising employment and is a long-standing asset to the University with an outstanding track record in every role.

## NOMINEES - STAFF



**Peter Duncliffe**

Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
IT Manager

Treating everyone with respect, Peter and the IT team at Gosta Green are friendly, helpful, polite and have a great sense of humour; students always go away satisfied with the answers.



**Sara Farrington**

Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
Lead Technician,  
Visual Communication

Sara has been a constant support and inspiration to students through collaborative projects, and is committed to improving facilities and the learning environment for students.



**Sharon Farrow**

Student Services  
Employment Zone Officer

Sharon has developed award-winning mentoring partnerships between the University and prospective employers, including Inspiring Futures and ASK@BCU, to enhance our students' employability.



**Emma Flint**

Faculty of Education,  
Law and Social Sciences  
Lecturer in Law

Moral support and encouragement are just two of the reasons why Emma is the first port of call for our students. She goes the extra mile to provide students with a morale boost and answer any queries.



**Lesley Gabriel**

Faculty of Performance,  
Media and English  
Course Administrator

According to her colleagues, Lesley is "an absolute superstar course administrator". Students can always rely on her for professional and personal support.



**Rob Gibb**

Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
Lecturer, Visual  
Communication

Called a "sublime talent" by colleagues, Rob leads an internationally-recognised BA degree and is outstanding in his teaching, providing inspiration to students.

# NOMINEES - STAFF



**George Hart**

**Birmingham Institute of Art and Design  
Lecturer, Visual Communication**

George has led a talented team of illustration staff to create one of the most highly respected courses in the UK, attracting large numbers of students – a testimony to his efforts in course development and the student experience.



**Lyndsey Harris**

**Faculty of Education, Law and Social Sciences  
Lecturer**

As well as attracting praise for her enthusiastic and accessible teaching style, Lyndsey's door is always open for advice and personal guidance with students' work, and she always goes the extra mile to aid our students' experience.



**Andrew Kulman**

**Birmingham Institute of Art and Design  
Course Director,  
School of Art**

Students have praised Andrew for encouraging a supportive and caring environment for all, regardless of the course they are on. He always takes time to talk with students and improve their knowledge of the University.



**Chiu Man**

**Birmingham Institute of Art and Design  
Lecturer, Visual Communication**

Chiu is absolutely dedicated to creating innovative new ways for students to develop their employment and graphic potential. He leads groups without fuss, is always positive and is respected by all.



**Stephen Murphy**

**Faculty of Technology, Engineering and the Environment  
Senior Lecturer**

Stephen always aims to encourage maximum student engagement, and enhances their learning experience through the use of interactive material on Moodle.



**Marie O'Boyle-Duggan**

**Faculty of Health  
Senior Lecturer**

Marie has worked extremely hard to ensure that the needs of people with learning disabilities continue to be highlighted and met through new and exciting methods of teaching and engaging students.

## NOMINEES - STAFF



**Nicole Riley**

Birmingham City  
Business School  
Student Communications  
Officer

Nicole is a great asset to the Business School, helping to ease the transition into University for new students by offering academic advice, guidance and support.



**Makhan Sharma**

Faculty of Technology,  
Engineering and the  
Environment  
Head of School, Computing,  
Telecommunications and  
Networks

Mak has been instrumental in making the University's students 'future-proof' by bringing together in excess of 25 Cisco partners annually to recruit our students and highlight the skills they need.



**Ros Sinclair**

Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
Lecturer, Visual  
Communication

Ros is outstanding as both a teacher and champion of industry links – she enjoys extensive connections in the field of international advertising, and incorporates this knowledge into the core of our courses.



**Matthew Smith**

Faculty of Technology,  
Engineering and the  
Environment  
Senior Lecturer/Course  
Leader

Students credit their final results to Matthew's exceptional lecturing techniques and support – for example, "thank you for what was an excellent module and for broadening a planner's perspective on the world of property investment!"



**Paul Summers**

Faculty of Technology,  
Engineering and the  
Environment  
Lecturer

Paul has developed and piloted innovative methods of assessment, which use technology to create a feedback-enriched learning experience.



**Caroline Thorley**

Student Services  
Employability Officer:  
Careers and Job Prospects

Caroline has made a real difference to improving student employability since starting at the University less than a year ago. She works enthusiastically with students, colleagues and employers and always has a smile on her face.



# NOMINEES - STAFF



**Nathalie Turville**

**Faculty of Health  
Senior Lecturer, Nursing  
and Midwifery**

A mentor and long-time believer in the value of embedding student employability in the curriculum, Nathalie has worked closely with the University's careers team to enrich many nurses' futures.



**Stephen Wanless**

**Faculty of Health  
Senior Academic**

Stephen's research has changed the behaviour of students in the field of patient handling by increasing individuals' awareness of their own biometrics and giving feedback on their posture and positioning.



**Nicola West**

**Centre for  
Academic Success  
Academic Skills Tutor**

Committed to raising student achievement and success, Nicola has developed a faculty-wide online resource to help students at all levels of study develop their academic skills and research methods ability.



**Kelvin Wong**

**Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
Lecturer, Visual  
Communication**

Animation, moving image and looking after international students are the main concerns for this hard-working and totally inspired member of BIAD's staff.



**Janice Wright**

**Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
Library Liaison**

Jenny always makes an effort to go that one step further to ensure that the libraries at Margaret Street and Gosta Green are enjoyable places to study.



## NOMINEES - STUDENTS

Our students are entrepreneurial, enterprising, forward-thinking, creative and ambitious. They are successfully upgrading their own futures through hard work, extracurricular activities, volunteering in the community, training and personal development.



**Suleman Amad**

Faculty of Education,  
Law and Social Sciences  
BA (Hons) Criminology

Suleman has become a role model and friend to peers on his course after overcoming personal difficulties to change the course of his life and achieve success at university.



**Luke Atkinson**

Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
BA (Hons) Visual  
Communication

Luke has surpassed the expectation of his tutors with his involvement in an innovative Student Academic Partnership project, creating a valuable teaching aid for the benefit of future students.



**Sean Bloomfield**

Faculty of Technology,  
Engineering and the  
Environment  
BSc (Hons) Architectural  
Technology

A role model making an impact on lecturers and employers alike with his innovative use of technology, Sean produced an excellent CGI fly-through of the ideal graduate home as part of the 2011 Inter-Professional Project, 'GradPads'.



**Leonie Brüeckner**

Faculty of Performance,  
Media and English  
MA Social Media

Leonie has used the University's Student Academic Partner scheme as a platform to work collaboratively with her peers to improve the experience of international postgraduate students.



**Trina Chavda**

Faculty of Performance,  
Media and English  
BA (Hons) Media and  
Communications  
(Television)

Trina carries out work to improve the experience of current and future students through her work as a PR officer and secretary for the Student Council, and as a Student Representative throughout her time on the course.



**Katie Connor**

Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
MA Design Management

A Master's student with 10 years of industry experience, Katie has recently left full-time employment to set up her own design consultancy, juggling motherhood, her career, her studies and the new business.

# NOMINEES - STUDENTS



**Uzair Delair**

Birmingham City Business School  
BA (Hons) Business and Finance

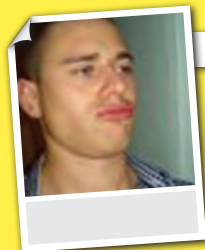
One of the founding members of the Birmingham City Business School Council Forum, Uzair arranges events and activities to build a stronger, inclusive student community, including negotiating a special rate for a group visit to Alton Towers.



**Rui Duarte**

Faculty of Health  
PhD student

Outstanding commitment has equalled huge success for PhD student Rui, who has been published in several high-impact journals, with more articles under review, and presented work at European conferences.



**Sam Hawksley**

Faculty of Performance, Media and English  
BMus (Hons)

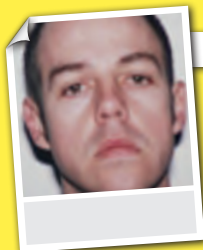
Sam pioneered a project to inspire homeless people via music. He encouraged participation in song-writing and singing, and was so successful that he has been offered employment to continue running the group.



**Siara Hussain**

Birmingham City Business School  
BA (Hons) Accountancy and Business

One of the founding members of the Birmingham City Business School Student Council, Siara is passionate and committed to building a stronger student community through a series of fun activities and events.



**Andre de Jong**

Birmingham Institute of Art and Design  
BA (Hons) Visual Arts

Andre created a national media stir by setting up an 'art space' for aspiring artists across the country. He has also undertaken an SAP project focused on preparing students for life after university.



**Paula May**

Birmingham Institute of Art and Design  
MA Design Management

One of the busiest students on the course, Paula volunteered to help with the Triumph project alongside her full-time job, seeing it as an opportunity to build her knowledge and experience.

# NOMINEES - STUDENTS



**Andrew McKeown**

Faculty of Technology,  
Engineering and the  
Environment  
BEng (Hons)  
Telecommunications  
and Networks

Andrew is an inspiration to fellow engineering colleagues, applying the real-life experience he gained from serving in British Army. He has worked on several engineering inventions and is successfully reintegrating into civilian life.



**Verity Naughton**

Faculty of Education,  
Law and Social Sciences  
PGCE Secondary

Trainee teacher Verity has thrown herself into all aspects of university life, inspiring others to challenge themselves – most recently delivering her findings from a Student Academic Partnership scheme to the whole PGCE secondary cohort.



**Matthew Popo**

Faculty of Education,  
Law and Social Sciences  
BA (Hons) Criminology

Having seen first-hand the effects of gang culture and crime on local communities, Matthew now goes into local classrooms to help steer local youngsters away from trouble and hopes to work as a prison governor in future.



**Nick Tydeman**

Birmingham Institute  
of Art and Design  
BA (Hons) Visual  
Communication

Photography student Nick got involved in an award-winning SAP scheme to educate future students and to relieve pressures on the studio technician. Most recently his work has been published in the Royal Photographic Society journal.



**Reema Yadav**

Faculty of Technology,  
Engineering and the  
Environment  
MSc Project Management

As well as achieving academic excellence, Reema has always gone the extra mile to get involved in activities across the University and has championed her fellow students' interests as president of the Postgraduate Society.

# NOMINEES - ALUMNI

Our alumni are living proof of how the University has successfully upgraded the future of its students. They are high-flying, successful leaders in their fields who are making a real impact on society. Our alumni take their experiences of Birmingham City University with them to achieve success in their life and careers.



**Eiffat Ali**

**BA (Hons) Sociology, 2010**

Since graduating in 2010, Eiffat has been pursuing her passion of helping and supporting local young people who have drug, alcohol or mental health issues as a Homeless Services Support Worker.



**Ahmad Al Mansour**

**MSc Software Development and Security, 2010**

Ahmad now works with a top architecture company in the Middle East applying skills he learned during his Master's degree at Birmingham City University.



**Victoria Eggs**

**BA (Hons) Fine Art, 2005**

Having initially used her passion for photography to create her own range of greetings cards, Vicki now runs her own brand, CMYK London, featuring her own eye-catching designs on t-shirts, tea towels, mugs, bags and limited edition screen prints.



**Stephen Harrison-Mirfield**

**BA (Hons) Sociology, 1997**

Former Students' Union president Stephen works in the Middle East with accountancy giant KPMG. Having initially worked in human resources in the UK, he has since developed his career with posts in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.



**Amy Meehan**

**PgDip Broadcast Journalism, 2008**  
**BA (Hons) Media and Communication, 2007**

Nominated for UTV Journalist of the Year, Amy credits her huge success as a senior broadcast journalist on Peak FM to her four years of studying at the University and the support of her tutors.







Congratulations to all our finalists and nominees and look out for posters of them around campus over the next few weeks. Details of how to nominate someone for the 2012 'Tell Us Your Story' awards will be posted on the University website at [bcu.ac.uk/upgrade/tell-us](http://bcu.ac.uk/upgrade/tell-us) over the coming months.

# What's your University story?

"The judging process for these awards was a difficult one. All of the candidates demonstrated exceptional skills, talent and desire to succeed. In doing these awards, we wanted to celebrate the unsung heroes of the University – staff who are going the extra mile to support our students, students who are working hard to upgrade their own futures and alumni who have gone on to achieve success in their chosen fields."

"My daughter inspired me to go back to education and my little family now inspires me further to succeed. I mooted a lot for the University and spent a huge amount of time studying so now is the time to concentrate on my family whilst balancing a steadily-built career."

"I am driven by a number of things. I have an unrelenting drive to see what is possible, to test the boundaries of my abilities, in business particularly. I am also driven by my family who have always supported me massively in what I have done, even some of the more crazy things I've got up to."

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