

PRESS RELEASE



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FOUNDATION LEARNING STUDENTS CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS

As part of the Festival of Achievement at Yeovil College, the Department of Foundation Learning recently held an action-packed celebration evening, organised and presented mainly by the students including dance routines, films & videos, awards and a fundraising auction.



Over one hundred guests were enthralled as they watched video footage of the students taking part in various activities such as a visit to Spain, the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge and the student's version of 'Big Brother'. The evening's entertainment was compered by Alex Pearce and Ann Button who are both students on the Work Preparation course.

The evening started with a communication and media presentation and video 'Push the Button' which was a road safety video that was filmed at CREATE Centre in Bristol.

There was a belly-dancing routine performed by the Work Preparation and Life Skills students. There was a puppetry performance by Jordan McNiven, a Work Preparation student, whose hilarious routine with a monkey glove puppet enthralled everybody. The part-time students had everyone involved with a 'Brain Gym' activity to improve concentration, thinking and listening.



The Kerry Power 'Golden Welly Award', named in remembrance of a much-loved member of staff was awarded to the students after the annual football match between staff and students. The students won following a penalty shoot-out after a drawn match of 19 goals.

A fundraising auction also took place. Students Rosemary Extance and Katie Wallis wrote letters to local businesses, larger companies and celebrities asking for donations. They received a fantastic response including a range of signed photos from celebrities and tickets for Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. A total of £580 was raised from the auction and a raffle, which also took place on the night. This money will go towards a new mini bus for the department.

The evening was rounded off with a number of awards, presented by James Hampton, Yeovil College Principal.



Holly Francis was named Work Preparation Student of the Year. She was nominated by her tutor Corrina Bass. Corrina said, "Holly has faced obstacles which have meant that she has had time off but she always works hard to catch up and has not fallen behind in her work. She can find it difficult to socialise and used to spend break and lunch times on her own however, she now spends more time with her friends and has even made new friends. She went on the Barton Hall residential where she took part in all activities and was supportive of other students. She will be staying in Foundation Learning for a third year and she hopes to have a work placement and to be able to access Yeovil independently."

Life Skills Learner of the Year was awarded to Daniel Braunton. Daniel was nominated by his lecturers Emma Samuels, Jackie Hughes and Sue Odierno. They said "Daniel began Yeovil College on part-time courses. He then moved onto the full-time Lifeskills Programme September 2007 on a reduced timetable. He quickly showed progression and settled into college really well increasing his days at college to four this year. His speech has significantly improved, with him now being able to say most of our names clearly. He is now able to express his feelings so we can fully support and understand him. He follows a number of simple instructions well. He is now very much a part of the college community and it is clear that he values this. It is wonderful to be greeted with this

learner each morning, his cheeky grin and his questions about the bus. He gets on well with his peers and is an extremely enthusiastic, animated, valued member of all groups he works with. It has been fantastic to see this learner develop and grow at College.”

Last, but not least, Zoe Warner was named Part-time Student of the Year. Her lecturers Steve Loud and John Remington said, “Not only is her smile warm and welcoming but great for all to see. She has gained so much confidence as regards with her communication; she has taken part in some many group discussions this year and answered direct questions with clear and sensible ideas and in the last few weeks they have even initiated conversations with staff in both familiar and unfamiliar surroundings. She has grown, tremendously, in self confidence this year and is now able to cook both meals and snacks independently. She has also been able to do the shopping that is required on her own and make relevant choices.



In his speech, James Hampton said “I have seen some amazing students here tonight – this evening shows Yeovil College at its best. I am so proud of what they have achieved. Thank-you to all of you for a very enjoyable evening and may I wish you all the best for the future.”

Students going on to higher-level courses were mentioned and fond farewells to those who are leaving the college.

Foundation Learning at Yeovil College offers a wide variety of courses that are individually tailored to the needs of students with learning difficulties / disabilities. For further information please call 01935 423921.

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Notes to Editors

All press enquiries to Janice Smith, Marketing Officer t: (01935) 845406 e: janice.smith@yeovil.ac.uk

Complete List of donations for fundraising auction:

John Remington – a summer evening sailing experience
Strictly Come Dancing dancer Camilla Dallerup – Signed photo, Strictly Come Dancing live tour DVD, ‘Dance off the inches’ DVD.
Noel Edmonds – signed book
Keira Knightly – signed photograph
Paul O’Grady – signed photos and a nodding Olga and Buster
Patsy Kensit – signed photo
Jo Brand – signed photo
Malee Thai Restaurant – voucher for a meal for 2
Pottery Experience – one-hour pottery lesson
Jewellery lesson
Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat – voucher for 2 tickets
Robbie Coltrane – signed photo
Michael Parkinson – signed photo
Nuffield Health Club – One week gym membership
Abbotsbury Swannery – family voucher
Dame Judy Dench – signed photo
Tony Robinson – signed photo
Churchill Insurance – nodding Churchill dog
Hayley Westerna & Stephen Fry – signed copy of CD “Different Voices”

The CREATE Centre, Bristol

Lifeskills - Learning for Living is a permanent, regional safety education and training centre built as a realistic 'village' on the 4th floor of The CREATE Centre, Hotwells, Bristol. It is designed to help children, adults with learning difficulties and older people learn about safety in a fun and practical way, specifically in the home, on the road or during leisure time.