

BICS Awards 2013

The BICS Awards 2013 took place in the Hodson Bay Hotel on April 11th. 17 colleges and 408 people were in attendance for the presentation of the adjudication process and the awards. See full details of all the nominees and winners on the night. Thanks to all the society committee members in attendance, to the 48 adjudicators and to the chief adjudicators Lucy O'Connell and Tim O'Connor. Thanks to all the hard working BICS Executive, Awards Coordinator Riona Hughes and Adjudication Coordinator Emma Matthews for a memorable occasion. Entertainment was by Transmitter. Congratulations to all involved. It was announced on the night that next year the awards will be in Belfast.

The Results

Best Society in a Large College



QUB's SWOT win Best Society in a large College. with Anita Conway BICS Chairperson (DIT) and Adjudicator Brian Hannah (ITTD).

The Nominees are:

DCU Media production
DIT Circus and Juggling
NUIG Film Society
NUIM SVdeP
QUB SWOT
TCD Players
UCC Law soc
UL international society
and The winner is....

QUB SWOT

SWOT is a charitable medical society which has been run by fourth year students in Queen's for 37 years. Their aim is to raise money for deprived hospitals in the developing world to allow the purchase of much needed

medical supplies and hospital equipment and provide financial aid for the running of medical facilities. During the summer following fourth year, as part of their elective placement, medical students travel directly to work in these hospitals and to deliver the funds raised by SWOT in person. They believe this sets them apart from other charities. They are humbled to see at first-hand how the money they have raised is used and the vital work it allows to be done. As future doctors they believe they are privileged to learn how simple and basic healthcare sustains life.

Best Society in a Small College



DBS Radio Society with adjudicator Pat Morgan (NUIG)

The Nominees are:

DBS Radio Soc

ITT Airsoft soc

ITTD Radio society

MIC One World soc

NCI Fashion Society

and The winner is....

DBS Radio Society

RadioDBS is Dublin Business Schools radio society. When they're not in the studio producing amazing chat shows, they are on campus, playing music for the students and getting people involved in Wii tournaments and dance-offs! They host a variety of events throughout the college year, including a Battle of the Bands with some of Ireland's top unsigned artists, amazing nights out in Dublin's best clubs and even a campaign to find the perfect Mr. and Mrs. DBS. RadioDBS is more than a society, it's a way of life. The members spend most of their time thinking up new ways to improve and help the college, and they put all their efforts into ensuring that there is constantly a good atmosphere around DBS. The amount of active members this year has more than doubled in comparison to previous years, and the society plans to keep growing in the years to come. RadioDBS have spent the last year turning a society into a family and a college into a community, and they plan to always stay committed to their cause of entertaining the masses, and making sure all students in Dublin Business School are enjoying their college life!

Best event in a Large College



The Nominees are:

- DCU Dance – DCU's Best Dance Crew
- DIT Circus and Juggling Society Dublin Circus Festival
- NUIG Cumann Staire 'History Month'
- NUIM Play Doh 'Maynooth Castle Fair'
- QUB Dance Society – 'Strictly QUB Dance'
- TCD Dance Soc 'Come Dancing'
- UCC Environmental Soc 'Feeding the 500'
- UL Poker soc 'Paddy Power Student Masters'
- and The winner is....
- UCC Environmental Soc 'Feeding the 500'**

UCC Environmental Society promotes environmental awareness, sustainable and environmentally friendly living on and off campus, among the student and staff body alike. We provide a platform on which people interested in all aspects of the environment can interact. Students and staff have the opportunity to participate in environmental orientated activities throughout the 12 months of the year.

Best Event in a Small College



The Nominees are:

- CIT Cork Drama Soc 'Stags and hens production'
- DKIT ESN Dundalk 'Launch of ESN Dundalk'

GMIT LGBT Soc 'Rainbow Day'
IT Tralee LGBT 'RAINBOW WEEK'
ITTD Drama Soc 'Playboy of the Western World'
MIC Live music Soc 'Summerville sessions'
and The winner is....
DKIT ESN Dundalk 'Launch of ESN Dundalk

The newly established ESN Dundalk will work in the interest of students who spend parts of or entire their formal education at a higher education institution in a country other than their country of origin. It will work as an advocate for International students regarding education and training in the European Higher Education Area. The launch of ESN Dundalk was a dynamic two day event which saw DkIT turned into an airport for two days. 'Ground Crew' guided cars into parking spaces, Cabin Crew handed out boarding passes, class room doors became departure gates all to highlight that you can travel with DkIT as part of your course.regarding education and training in the European Higher Education Area

Best individual Large



The Nominees are:
NUIG Aine Cahalan
UL Kennedy O'Brien
NUIM Kiernan Timmins
TCD Lorcan Clarke

UCC Annie Hoey
DCU Laura Rice
DIT Helene Duffy
QUB Owen Mc Meel
and The winner is....
TCD Lorcan Clarke

Lorcan Clarke is President of the University Philosophical Society. 'The Phil' had a fantastic year, reaching many historic milestones – signing up a record 3,248 new members, a record number of events, and attracting more attendees than any previous year. As President, Lorcan's main role was to oversee the strategic direction of the society, coordinate the 21 members of council and invite the headline guests and organise their visits. This year, there were 22 of these secured to address the society, including Hugh Laurie, Richard Dawkins, Whoopi Goldberg, Conan O' Brien, Sir Steve Redgrave and the Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt. Lorcan accepts the award as a representative of the Phil and all the hard work the council have put in this year.

Best Individual Small



The Nominees are:
ITTD Emma Feeley
GMIT Katherine Long
DKIT Conor O Callaghan
IT Trallee Niamh Murtaigh
NCI Emma O' Hanlon
and The winner is....
GMIT Katherine Long

Katherine is one of the founding members and currently President of Best Buddies GMIT. Last year she won an award with Ability West for her involvement with Best Buddies. She is a huge advocate of volunteering on the GMIT campus and in her own life. She has been volunteering since the age of 13 and she has always lived by the belief of 'Treat others as you would like to be treated'.

Most Improved Large



The Nominees are:
NUIG Medicine society
UCC cork BIS society
NUIM Business society
DIT Photo Society
QUB Literific Society
DCU LGBTA
and The winner is....
NUIG Medicine society

NUIG Medicine Society has reinvented itself to become a student movement that enhances its members' university experience in creative and innovative ways while embodying a spirit of altruism. In the past twelve months its activities have been focused in four key areas, which it will seek to expand and enhance.

1. It supplements the college's traditional education with events like a research day, a careers evening and a seminar on how to succeed in oral exams.
2. The society seeks to make its members' voices heard, not only figuratively (by advocating for better working conditions for health workers) but also literally, this year scooping the Irish Medical Organisation's Student Debating Championship and the Irish College of Psychiatry's Public Speaking competition.
3. It promotes good health among its members with a tag rugby tournament, among the wider university community by distributing 600 organ donor cards and among the people of Ireland by creating the Fit & Well resource pack for mental well-being.
4. Lastly, the society caters to its members' social needs, organising three balls with an attendance of over 1000 students and alumni.

On top of all that, NUIG Medicine Society has this year led on the national stage, chairing the Association of Medical Students in Ireland and Northern Ireland and representing Ireland at an international students' conference in the USA.

Most Improved Small College



The Nominees are:
Griffith College Griffiti Magazine society
ITTD Haranbee society
IT Tralee music soc
MIC creative writing soc
and The winner is....
MIC Creative Writing Soc

Mary Immaculate College's Creative Writing Society is devoted to supporting all storytellers, poets, authors, playwrights, lyricists and screenplay-writers within the college. We promote a love of the written word within the college and seek to provide alternative, cultural entertainment for those who aren't always into the "pubs and clubs" scene. We meet up every week for a group meeting where we review each others' work (submitted to our online forum), read aloud, debate, discuss and defend our favourite novels, poems, plays, movies and graphic novels. This year, our proudest events have been our RAG week game: Assassins, our two sketch shows- with plays written by members of the society- and our Movie and Literature quiz.

Best Civic Contribution Large





The Nominees are:

DCU Rag Society

DIT Wells for Zoe Society Large College

NUIG Draocht Society

OUB Red Cross Society

TCD Saint Vincent de Paul Society

UCC Saint Vincent de Paul Society

and The winner is....

NUIG Draocht Society

Draíocht works in Talarang village in Nepal and was founded in 2008 by Melanie Hennessy. Draíocht promotes self-sustainability and offers a hand up, not a hand out to some of the poorest children in the Third World. Founding the Little Angels Children's Home and a new school have been some highlights of Draíocht's work!

Best Civic Contribution Small College



The Nominees are:

GMIT Best Buddies

ITTD Radio Soc

MIC RAG Soc

NCI Peer Mentoring Society

Tralee RAG

and The winner is....

MIC RAG Soc

MIC RAG (Raise and Give) Society is a new society set up in Mary I this year. We aim to fundraise for charities in need in new and creative ways, present students in a positive light to the community, encourage students to get more involved in fundraising and volunteering, provide volunteering opportunities for students and to run awareness campaigns about charities and people in need. We also want to work towards ridding the negative association with the word "RAG". We have raised money for Breast Cancer Research Ireland, Prostate Cancer Research Ireland, The Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland and The Share a Dream Foundation. Our main events this year have been "Chained for Cash", "Movember Moustache Sale", "Valentine's Day Delivery Service", "Hell

and Back Run”, “Rag Challenges” and “International Day of Happiness”. What we are proud of this year is creating a strong and long-lasting society in the college. We’ve surprised ourselves with how much we’ve achieved this year, we’re extremely proud of the contribution we’ve made to charities around Ireland.

Best Fresher Large



The Nominees are:
NUIG Dean Buckley
TCD Adam Thakore
UCC Samantha Cooney
DCU Lindsay Butler
NUIM Aisling Shalvey
DIT Rebecca Branigan
QUB Judith Alexander
and The winner is....
Samantha Cooney

Samantha has been involved with three societies this year; Animal Welfare, Children’s Aid and Amnesty International. However the majority of her work and achievements are as a result of her roles as School Speaker Officer and Activism Week Coordinator for Amnesty International. As School Speaker Officer she has recruited students and organised training with Amnesty International Ireland. This program enables students to attend school nationwide and talk about human rights. As Activism Week Coordinator she coordinated a week-long event with a positive message: ‘stand up, take action and be the change!’ As a result of it’s success it will now be run annually in UCC.

Best Fresher Small



The Nominees are:
IT Tralee Stephen Griffin
CIT Nana Oki
ITTD Micheal Kiernan
MIC Caoimhin O Ceallaigh
NCI Aoife Lynam
and The winner is....
MIC Caoimhin O’Ceallaigh

The societies Caoimhin was involved in were Wired FM and Cumann Gaelach Gan Smal. He became Cathaoirleach of CGGS in the first semester and saw it as his responsibility chun mo sheacht dhicheall a dheanamh chun an ghaeilge a thacu. He organised many events and broadcast a radio show as Gaeilge chun an aidhm seo a bhaint amach. Cumann Gaelach Gan Smál is a society which aims to promote an Ghaeilge around Mary Immaculate College. It co-ordinate with various bodies within the college in the organising of fun lively events which promote both the informal speaking of gaeilge as well as enjoyment of the the gaelach culture on campus. It is their primary goal to set up the campus of Mary Immaculate College as one where Gaeilge can be openly spoken from day to day and an atmosphere of craic is associated with the language. We also do our utmost to co-ordinate with national bodies such as Conradh na Gaeilge to support the national growth of an Ghaeilge.

Best New Soc Large



The Nominees are:
NUIG feminist society
UL fan forum Society
UCC Musical Society
NUIM Finomics
DCU Harry Potter society
DIT Japanimation Society
and The winner is....
NUIM Finomics

Finomics began in 2011 with a small group of students who formed a committee called the “Economics Students Committee” or ESC with the hope of breaking through the Dismal Science. Following a huge surge in demand from students both in and outside of the discipline, we quickly developed into a fully-fledged society, with the

mandate of providing students and staff alike a means of broadening their understanding in [Finance](#) and Economics, to help them realise how what they are learning in lectures has an impact on the wider world, and to let like-minded people discuss matters that mean the a lot to them.

With the promise of a strong and interactive audience they were able to attract numerous high profile speakers such as David McWilliams, Constantin Gurdgiev and Alan Dukes. They have quickly become a well-recognised presence within college life for both interesting and engaging events, with the perfect mix of social nights and academic discussions. We hope to keep growing long into the future and one day becomes a staple of student life within NUI Maynooth.

Best New Society Small College



The Nominees are:

DKIT ESN Dundalk

IT Tralee Tv and Video Society

DBS Dance society

CIT Slow food

Griffith College Beer Pong Society

MIC RAG society

ITTD Capoeira Soc

and The winner is....

DBS Dance society

The DBS Dance Society was founded in Sept 2012. The society was set up to allow students to take part in dance activities and to get involved and learn new skills whether you're new to dance or an improv or even just looking to make some new friends. The society has always encouraged its members to get involved no matter how great or small their dance experience is. Aside from offering its members weekly dance classes the society also offered its members dance workshops, our Burlesque workshop proved to be very popular amongst students and staff alike. The DBS dance crew had the opportunity to compete at Dance Inters 2013 in UCD. Although the crew had only a short period of time to rehearse for the competition, the crew did an amazing job on the day and gave a memorable performance. The highlights of the societies year has to have been performing at Inters but also winning Best New Society at the DBS Annual Sports and Societies Awards 2013, it was great to receive recognition for the society's hard work by DBS.

Best On-line presence



The Nominees are:

NUIG Lit & Deb

ITTD Radio Society

TCD University Philosophical society

UCC Philosophical Society

DCU Music Society

DIT DJ Soc

and The winner

UCC Philosophical Society

The UCC Philosophical society is UCC's primary debating society. We host weekly house debates and invite guest speakers (this year: Noam Chomsky, Julie Bindel, Ben Dror Yemini among others). We host weekly speaker development sessions where we train members how to publicly speak and engage. We also compete at intervarsities and are one of the most successful societies in Europe. Our public relations effort is purposefully to keep members engaged and inform them of our successes.

Best Poster



The Nominees are:

GMIT Karting Society

DBS Psychological society

Dundalk ESN

Tralee Airsoft

UCC Dramat

DCU Style Society

CIT DJ Society

NUIG Film society

ITTD Debating

DIT Fashion

and The winner is....

NUIG Film society



FilmSoc is NUIG's biggest creative society! They are not only the free student cinema but also the in-house film-studio providing all the workshops, equipment and training to help our members make movie-magic. With our range of screenings, events, trips and festivals FilmSoc offers the most diverse student experience on-campus.

Their main events included Sing-a-long screenings, festival trips, filmmaking competitions, in-depth workshops and short film making.

This year they held their first ever film festival, Release the "B"s which was the first of its kind in Ireland. Held in various locations all over Galway, FilmSoc entertained packed out screenings and even screened a number of their own themed shorts to the crowd.

FilmSoc has had an amazing year, growing from not only a film screening society but into NUIG's filmmaking society too.