

Last Year's Diversity Award winner tells Buzz how it felt to win a BUAFTA...



David Cottam

'This was the second time that I had been nominated for a BUAFTA; both times for my work on the Staff Disability Group. On both occasions it really lifted my sense of achievement to be recognised by others as having made a difference to my colleagues working lives and the lives of our students that have disabilities. Like many people within the University I have been working here for many years and feel that being nominated was a reward in itself.

Winning the BUAFTA was a great feeling and has definitely helped to put the Staff Disability Group in the spotlight. People recognise that I was awarded a BUAFTA for the work I had done as Chair of this group and I think it has helped to get cooperation to make a change for the better. A good example of this is from Estates who now let us know when an area on campus is being excavated allowing us time to walk the route with Estates staff and members of Student Support. We can then warn those staff and students that may not be able to navigate these areas, particularly those with severe visual impairment or mobility difficulties.

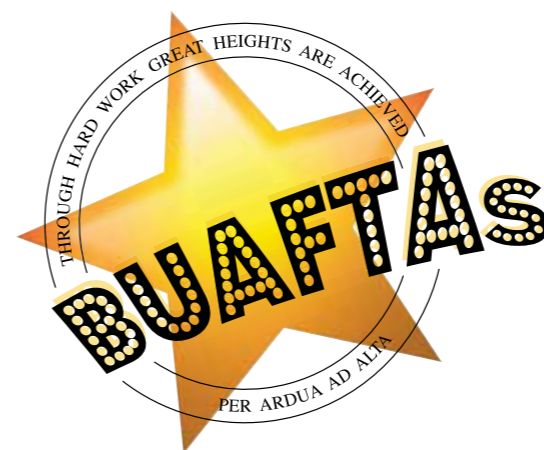
Winning the BUAFTA, has in some ways, changed my career. It's certainly put the Staff Disability Group on the map, but I am also getting involved in areas of the college that are not part of my IT position. This includes assisting

in the implementation of the PEEPS process, which is the safe evacuation of staff and students with disabilities from buildings in the event of an emergency. I am also technical contact for IT services for staff that are applying for assistive technology under the access to work scheme. So, although I can't say for definite if it's a direct result of winning a BUAFTA, things have definitely changed for me.

I would like to encourage staff to nominate colleagues who they feel do outstanding work. I think that it can make a huge difference to someone to just be nominated. All University staff have very busy lives and it is quite often overlooked to say to a colleague that they have done a really great job. I think if we all took five minutes to think we could all come up with something outstanding that a colleague has done and this is the forum to recognise their achievement and attempt to reward them for it in a much more public way.'

**David Cottam, BUAFTA Diversity Award Winner 2010
IT Manager, College of Social Sciences**

(NB. This year the Diversity Award is changing to incorporate a wider group of nominations and will now be called 'Reflecting the University's Values').



SPECIAL EDITION

BUZZ

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October 2010

Get nominating
Nominations open 11–31 October 2010

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Welcome to the BUAFTAs 2011

Don't wait, get voting!



I am pleased to announce that the Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement (BUAFTA) are back for 2011, and equally pleased to be this year's awards Chair.

The BUAFTAs are a fantastic opportunity for us to recognise the outstanding achievements that our administrative, technical and support staff make every day. Without them and their hard work, the University could not operate. Often our academic success stories are in the news and steal the spotlight in terms of staff recognition but this is a chance to say thank you to everyone who supports our institution and are the unsung heroes of this University.

When I was asked to chair the BUAFTAs this year, my initial thought was 'do I have the time to commit to it?', but this was quickly overtaken by my desire to be part of such a wonderful celebration of effort. This year's committee and I have been working hard for that past few months to ensure that the 2011 event is the best one yet. The nomination categories have been reviewed to become more inclusive to a wider audience and to recognise some of the University's most sought after working values. We are focusing our support on just one charity this year, the Teenage Cancer Trust's Young Adult Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, a very worthy

cause and in recognition of the fact that the BUAFTA gala dinner will be held on World Cancer Day, 4 February 2011. Please do buy raffle tickets which will be on sale from November onwards boasting some excellent prizes including a BlackBerry, £100 cash, use of a WASPS Rugby Box, and a slap up breakfast for two at the Selly Sausage! Plus many more...

We encourage all staff to nominate this year, that's academic, administrative, technical and support staff. Being nominated for an award creates a real sense of achievement. Just to know that someone has noticed that you do a good job is a great feeling as you'll see from David Cottam's article on the back of this brochure.

It's so easy to nominate, just visit our intranet page (www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/buافتa) and click on 'How to nominate'. Online nominations can be completed anywhere, including at home and within the computer clusters so there's no excuse to not nominate! For those without computer access, just pick up a hard copy form from your line manager or from Aston Webb reception. This year all nominators are entered into a prize draw to win an iPad.

Nominations open on Monday 11 October and close at midnight on Sunday 31 October 2010 so just three weeks to get your nominations in this year. All nominated candidates will receive a letter informing them of their

nomination, and shortlisted candidates will later be invited to attend the BUAFTA Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Friday 4 February 2011, where the winners will be announced.

Let's celebrate our wonderful University by thanking those staff who make it so great. Don't wait, get voting!

Brendan Casey
Director of Academic Services
Chair of BUAFTA Committee

YOUR BUZZ

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News, views, pictures, notices, adverts and events to:
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Buzz online
www.buzz.bham.ac.uk

Editor Kate Pritchard

Cover shot: BUAFTA 2010 award winners



Sell it to us!

Being this year's BUAFTA Chair of the judging panel is both a huge honour and a daunting responsibility. We have outstanding administrative, technical and support staff across the University and this is an important opportunity to recognise and celebrate their contribution. So I know that the panel and I have a very important task on our hands. The newly revised nomination categories open up an opportunity for everyone to vote for their colleagues and support the fantastic work that they do. We'll have lots of nominations to get through so if you feel someone has done a great job, really sell it to us, tell us everything you can to confirm how great that person is and explain the things that they have achieved. Make it stand out from the rest!

The judging panel and I will do our best to make the most fair and equal decisions based on the information we are given and really look forward to seeing the winners on the 4 February 2011. November will be a busy month for the panel and as we read every single nomination, I am really looking forward to hearing about all of the wonderful work and achievements that take place at our University.

Professor Lawrence Young
Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College of Medical and Dental Sciences
Chair of judging panel

BUAFTA Categories 2011

Award	Recognises...
1 Team Player of the Year	Consider colleagues who interact with others to build positive, inter-department working relationships. This award recognises those who have excelled at maintaining the self-confidence and mutual support of other members of the team. This could be someone who goes above and beyond to support all staff or students within the department, ensuring that they are happy and motivated in the workplace.
2 Team of the Year	Consider teams that have made a significant impact or achieved significant results over the past year. This award recognises teams that have overcome significant obstacles or have successfully utilised the skills of all members of the team and can demonstrate collaboration with others.
3 Best Customer Service	Consider an individual or team who went the extra mile to give their customers a top quality service experience. Candidates may have anticipated or responded to the needs of the customer by pro-actively building and maintaining positive relationships between staff, students or departments.
4 The Vice-Chancellor's Award	Consider an individual or team who has introduced and established new initiatives or innovative ways of working within the University. This award recognises those who have shown dedication to improving or supporting the endeavours of the University and have strived to uphold and advance its values and standards in challenging circumstances. The impact of these successes may also affect the broader scope of the University such as interaction with the local community or providing far reaching support to our international audience.
5 Best Newcomer	Consider an individual who has joined the University, or moved to a new team or role, within the last 12 months and made a very positive impression on their department. This award recognises someone who has been pro-active in implementing better practice, or who has had a positive effect on the department generating effective results or change in a relatively short time.
6 Role Model of the Year	Consider an individual who is an outstanding example within the University. This award recognises those who exemplify the best within their role and they are also recognised as a role-model for positive attitude and professionalism.
7 The Student Experience Award	Consider an individual or team who has had a positive impact on the experience of students at Birmingham. This award recognises those colleagues whose work helps to create a distinctive, high quality and enhanced student experience at Birmingham. Consideration may be given to those who work directly with students as well as those who work behind the scenes.
8 Innovation of the Year	Consider colleagues who have been involved in delivering innovation or change in a way that contributes to the vision of the University and its operation. This award recognises an individual or team who has been involved in innovation, change, or a project which has been successfully implemented and has had a significant impact on the University or individual Department. Consideration can also be given to innovation involving new ways of thinking or working.
9 Reflecting the University's Values	Consider an individual or team whose work in support of education, research, or our working environment promotes the values of the University. We apply the following values to the work that we do, the relationships that we build and the partnerships that we form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Excellence – we are committed to excellence at the heart of everything we do ■ Distinctiveness – we are clear about what makes us stand out amongst our national and international peers ■ Impact – we make a difference in Birmingham, across the country and around the world ■ Confidence – we are confident in ourselves, in our direction and in our common purpose ■ Pride – we take pride in our heritage, in our location, in being elite; and our global community takes pride in us NB. This award is an amalgamation of the previous Diversity and Environmental Awards creating a broader, more inclusive, category.

Get nominating

This is your opportunity to recognise your colleagues and let the judges know who you think deserves to be awarded for their efforts. Any member of the University staff and student community can nominate any member of administrative, support or technical staff.*

You can nominate online at www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/buافتa or pick up a paper nomination form from your line manager or Aston Webb reception. All forms must be returned to Aston Webb reception by 31 October 2010. All nominations will be entered into a draw to win an iPad.

Nominations open
11–31 October 2010

*Core committee members, members of the University Executive Board, Senior Officers, Directors of Operations and the judging panel are excluded from being nominated. The judging panel is also not eligible to nominate.

Questions?

Have you read the nomination guidelines online first? This useful guide will help you complete your nomination. You can contact the BUAFTA committee by emailing buافتa@contacts.bham.ac.uk or learn more online www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/buافتa

