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## **Wins that made the difference - Awards Update - The Times Student Awards.**

By Michael Knipe.

Michael Knipe follows the fortunes of last year's winners to see how success in the Student Awards affected their lives and careers.

Career opportunities in law, computer systems, charity funding, virtual entrepreneurship and even songwriting were opened up to the winners of The Times Student Awards last year. They picked up their awards at an evening of dancing, and comedy from Paul Tomkinson, in London.

Greg Scott, who won prizes worth #5,000 for creating a website, was also given a job for ten weeks at Dell, the computer systems company, which sponsored the award.

Bernadette Butler took up the offer of a one-year placement with the City law office of Addleshaw Booth & Co.

Ordinary People, a pop group of two musicians, Virginia Prout and Steve Patterson, won the composer/songwriting competition, and performed in the West End in support of Brand New Heavies, as part of a new Raymond Weil watch launch.

At the time of last year's success, Scott was recovering from having a brain tumour surgically removed. He was told about it in December 1999, but found information difficult to locate. This led him to create the website that won him the Student Award. It included medical details, personal accounts from other patients, a message board and a diary of his hospital stay. He is now recovered from the tumour. The website has had 10,000 hits. Further evidence of Internet creativity was provided by the winner of The Times Student Virtual Entrepreneur Award, co-sponsored by Barclays. Steve Saxon, 21, was in his final year at Trinity College, Cambridge, studying computer science. His idea involved the development and storage of photographs. "I thought a service that developed photographs and scanned them into a website for you to see would be useful," he says.

Bernadette Butler trained as a radiographer at King's College London, but became disillusioned at what life in the NHS would entail. "It was a matter of patients on a conveyor belt against a background of a lack of resources," she says. As a career alternative law appealed - especially specialising in medical negligence work. She worked her way

through two years of law school, studying by day and working at a hospital by night.

However, her placement in a medical negligence practice weaned her off any aspirations to work in the health field. "I realised that what I enjoyed was corporate finance," she says.

The implications of e-business for law began to interest her and this was the basis for her winning essay last year: E commerce and Professional Firms in the 21st Century.

Sexual politics, problems facing immigrants in Dublin, and Tony Benn were the subjects which won joint first prize for the pair in the Student News Journalism Award, co-sponsored by Sky News. Contestants had to provide a news report or interview, plus (for the finalists) a two-minute VHS tape telling a news story. The winners were Johann Hari, 21, studying social and political science at King's College, Cambridge, and Hugh Miles, 23, studying English at Trinity College Dublin. Each won #4,000 and a six-week work placement at Sky News.

Last year The Times Student Business Award, co-sponsored by KPMG, challenged students to draw up a business plan for a charity. They were asked to write a plan outlining how #5,000, awarded in addition to the prizemoney by KPMG, could be used to achieve one or more of the charity's objectives. In addition to cash prizes, KPMG pledged to donate #1,000 to the charities chosen by shortlisted candidates.

The #5,000 first prize was won by Amit Patel, a medical student at Bristol University. His plan for CLIC - the national charity that supports children and young adults with cancer and leukaemia - set out how the money could help to develop a communications system linking doctors in Bristol to patients and their families in Devon and Cornwall.

