

MORE THAN 30 UNIVERSITIES AT SIFE UK NATIONAL COMPETITION

Over 200 students and university staff from 30 UK universities attended, along with over 100 business leaders the 2007 SIFE UK National Competition in London on April 19-20. Steve Freeman, Managing Director, Schwan's Consumer Brands UK and final round judge said "I found the experience very rewarding, and left feeling very encouraged by what I saw and heard."

The University of Nottingham overcame strong competition from 16 other student teams to win the 2007 SIFE UK National Competition in a closely contested event which also saw the SIFE teams from University of Strathclyde, Aston University and Imperial College London make it through to the Final Round.

The National Competition was launched with a SIFE UK Sponsors Reception and Dinner where judges and guests were welcomed by cultural displays representing teams' universities, cities and regions. James Eder, Director and co-founder of studentbeans.com and Professor Paul Hannon, Director of Research & Education at the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship inspired the audience with their own entrepreneurial experiences.



SIFE Nottingham, National Champion

Teams from the Universities of Birmingham, Bath, Keele and Sheffield were recognised by the Make Your Mark Campaign for their enterprising qualities and the University of Bath also received recognition as the most promising new team with the award of Rookie Champion of the Year. Their University Adviser, Siobain Hone, said "Our team had a fantastic time and they are really motivated and determined to win next year! The atmosphere and spirit of the event was wonderful."



The crucial contribution that university advisers make to the success of SIFE teams was recognised this year with a UKSEC (the national network for enterprise educators) SIFE UK award presented to Catherine Bushell and Kathryn Foot of Cardiff University for their outstanding contribution to the success of their team. In their nomination the team leader Iana Abakelia said; "They encouraged us to be innovative with our ideas. Their passion for enterprise and entrepreneurship education was integral to the success of our team".

SIFE Cardiff with awarded Advisers

This year also saw the introduction of SIFE UK's first special Individual Topic Competition for Financial Literacy, sponsored by HSBC and awarded to City University by Simon Birkett, Group Head of Financial Education, HSBC Holdings Plc.

The team from the University of Nottingham will now represent the UK at the SIFE World Cup . Their projects range from helping a struggling social enterprise move from deficit to profit, to running an international best-practice conference on beekeeping in Ghana (Beevelop). The Vice President of the Nottingham SIFE team Chris Skilton describes his SIFE experience as; "...the most rewarding thing I have ever done, I could probably write a book on the experiences I have had."

The team from Aston University was to represent the UK at the SIFE European Symposium . The teams projects included teaching children attending hospital schools how to run their own t-shirt business, and mentoring a 16 year old with a behavioural disorder who had struggled with the education system but had ambitions of starting out in the music industry.



SIFE Aston will represent the UK in Warsaw

Jim Ineson, Executive Director of SIFE UK, said: "All our students did a fantastic job in showcasing the skills they developed, while making a real difference to the community. Especially impressive was the strength and depth - every team had made great progress this year".



SIFE UK Alumni steering group makeover: before...

The event closed with a summary of SIFE UK's growth plans for the coming year, the announcement of the launch of the SIFE UK Career Advisory Council by Donna Miller (Head of Human Resources, Europe, Enterprise Rent A Car) and a call to action by the SIFE UK Alumni steering group who reminded the graduating students that they can continue their involvement in SIFE upon graduation by joining advisory boards of SIFE teams. The SIFE Alumni group also organized an amazing Closing Party with the theme „dress to dare“!

These two day were an amazing experience for everyone involved!



... and after

STUDENTS MEET ENTERPRISE IN GERMANY

At the 27th of April about 130 SIFE students and over 30 representatives of 9 sponsoring companies came together to meet enterprises at the BayKomm in Leverkusen, Germany, in a special way – let´s say the SIFE way.

The opening session was held by Jörg Krell, Chairman of SIFE Germany, and Petra Lewe, Country Coordinator of SIFE Germany. Afterwards, Ernst Primosch, Corporate Vice President of Henkel, presented the Henkel Approach to the Value of Corporate Social Responsibility to the audience.

Following this presentation the companies' representatives introduced their companies to the SIFE students. The SIFE students received information about the various companies— Ball Packaging, Heinz, Henkel, HSBC, Johnson&Johnson, KPMG, METRO Group, NIKE— their cultures and working techniques and thus made them even more interesting regarding future opportunities.

After lunch the SIFE students had plenty of time to talk with the companies' representatives about a large variety of topics. Conversations about career plans and possibilities in the companies were held as well as discussions about ideas and questions regarding SIFE projects. The atmosphere of the event was pleasant and productive and thus close contacts between companies and SIFE students arose.

For more information please visit: www.sife.de



HELP US TO TELL THE WORLD HOW YOU CHANGE LIVES!

Teams are invited to enter photos of their projects along with a case study application demonstrating how the team achieved a meaningful difference in the lives of others, as well as their own.

Ten finalists will be chosen – with each finalist team receiving a 500 USD cash award. Entries will be accepted for projects completed within the current academic year and must be submitted by July 1, 2007. To enter, please visit www.sife.org/sifephoto. Please send questions to photocontest@sife.org.

SIFE teams can submit their entries online at www.sife.org/sifephoto or by clicking on the banner ads on the SIFE homepage or MySpace page.

Each entry consists of two parts:

Completed case study form describing the project details (filled out online)

Three to five digital photographs documenting the project in action



These pictures do NOT show the project in action



These pictures DO show the project in action



Ten finalists will be chosen from the entries submitted. Each finalist team will receive 500 USD cash reward.

In addition, each finalist team's project stories and photos will be featured in:

SIFE World Headquarters media and marketing efforts; A special photography exhibit at the SIFE World Cup 2007; A new SIFE book

For more information please visit: www.sife.org/home/photo_contest.asp