

*"Working for quality
and diversity in
British broadcasting"*



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Founded in 1983 by Jocelyn Hay CBE

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Prize Winners Announced for VLV's 2009 Student Essay Competition

during VLV's 26th Annual Autumn Conference
'End of the BBC's Licence Fee Monopoly'
Thursday, 26th November 2009

At the Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1

The campaigning voices of younger listeners and viewers were celebrated today when four student writers received awards for their incisive and considered thoughts on the future of Public Service Broadcasting. The debate remains centre stage in a turbulent year on the media front. As prizewinners in the Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) Student Essay Competition, the four contributors were congratulated for progressing the debate in their work.

The outright winners – Jean Mackenzie in the Postgraduate section and Priya Kharbanda in the Undergraduate section each received cheques for £250 from Alex Thomson, Channel Four's Chief Correspondent, known as much now for his dogged studio presentation as his heroic frontline reporting. The competition is supported by The Voice of the Listener Trust and the cash prizes are provided by Channel 4. Both winners and runners up also enjoy work placements within the broadcast industry.

The essay subject this year was: *'What is important about Public Service Broadcasting and how should it be funded in the 21st Century?'*

Entries were invited in the form of written essays of a maximum 2,000 words.

The winner of the postgraduate equivalent category was Jean Mackenzie of Teddington, Middlesex, who studied for a post graduate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism at the London College of Communications. She is currently working as a freelance journalist and received a cheque for £250. She will spend two weeks on a work placement with Tiger Aspect in London.

The runner-up, Jonathan Crane of East Molesey, Surrey, was a student on the same course. He too is freelancing within the broadcast industry and is about to start a contract in Paris. He will spend two weeks with Roger Graef's Films of Record in the spring of 2010.

The winner in the undergraduate equivalent category was Priya Kharbanda who comes from Glasgow and is currently studying law in London. She will spend two weeks with Scottish Television in Glasgow in the summer of 2010.

The runner-up, Leanne Rinne from Cheltenham, is studying journalism at Sheffield. She will take up her placement with Ragdoll Productions in the summer of 2010.

Full further information visit www.vlv.org.uk or contact Linda Forbes, Events Administrator, VLV, at PO Box 401, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 9FY, 01474 352835 or linda.forbes@vlv.org.uk.