



Press Release from Bournemouth University

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Ambitious BU Students learn from hotel industry's finest

Four ambitious Bournemouth University (BU) students have won places on a new competitive mentoring scheme that will enable them to learn from the UK's top hotel professionals.

JJ Pollack, James Turton, Steven Driscoll and Rebecca Cupitt have successfully secured places on the Savoy Society Student Mentoring Scheme, where they will benefit from the experience and influence of members of the prestigious Savoy Society who are all prominent industry players.

Run by Springboard UK for The Savoy Society, the scheme aims to offer successful students the benefit of impartial support and guidance from a mentor for three years.

To obtain their place, the undergraduate Hospitality Management students had to endure a grueling selection process which included taking part in an Apprentice-style challenge at the Hilton Waldorf Hotel in London and attending a series of formal interviews.

They will now be matched with mentors including Stuart P. Johnson, Chairman of the Savoy Society and General Manager at Mayfair's 5 star Brown's Hotel, David Broadhead, Secretary of the Travellers Club, and Andrew Farquharson, Deputy Master of the Household at Clarence House.

Pleased with the success of the Assessment Day Stuart P. Johnson said: "The students who attended were all of the highest integrity and I was quite taken by their dedication and wish to succeed within our industry.

"The Savoy Society has set up this mentoring scheme in order to "give back" to our industry, to coach and support the young, talented individuals who are entering it. Today was true evidence of the quality of those individuals that we can look forward to joining our industry in the future".

Inbetween interviews the students were encouraged to write about their experience in a blog. James Turton (22) comments: "Having the chance to meet (and work with) industry experts who will hopefully be able to guide us through the next few years, or more, is an unmissable opportunity."

Rebecca Cupitt (22) adds: "The 'apprentice' style morning was a great team building exercise and was a good way of building confidence. Meeting the mentors was brilliant fun and I feel I have already learnt a lot from hearing about their hotels and skills."

Notes to Editors:

1. [The Savoy Society](#) was founded in 1990, under the guidance of the late Sir Hugh Woner, to be a point of contact for former employees of The Savoy Group of Hotels and Restaurants.
2. BU's BA in Hospitality Management, based within the [School of Services Management](#), is at the cutting edge of management thinking in a fast-developing industry. The course offers high employment opportunities for graduates due its strong relationships with employers across the globe as well as the UK
3. BU is the UK's Number One New University (first place among all institutions that became universities since 1992) according to The Guardian University Guide 2009 & 2010. (www.guardian.co.uk/education)
4. In the 2008 [Research Assessment Exercise](#) (RAE) BU is the 4th most improved university in the UK for the quality of its research (according to *Times Higher Education*).

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