

Junior Chamber Galway

Cumann Sóisearach na Gaillimhe



NEWS

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Three of Galway's Outstanding Young Persons receive Junior Chamber Awards

Junior Chamber Galway presented awards to three of Galway's outstanding young people at a mayoral reception in City Hall, College Road on Thursday 12th June at 6.30pm. The Young Person of the Year Award is a National Award run by Junior Chamber Ireland to recognise the achievements of some of the state's young people, in ten different categories.

Present at the award ceremony were the nominees, their families and former winners. Guests on the night included Cllr. Terry Flaherty representing the Mayor of Galway, Mr. Eamonn Murray - guest speaker representing the Special Olympics Host Town Committee as well as Junior Chamber dignitaries, President Junior Chamber Ireland, Mr. Jeremy Doyle and President, Junior Chamber Galway, Ms. Fiona Glynn.

The Galway finalists are:

Ruairí O'Toole, aged 27 from Spiddal, Co. Galway was awarded in the category for personal improvement and/or accomplishment. Ruairí was born with Down syndrome and had a major heart-saving operation when he was two years old. While attending St. Joseph's Special School he trained as a competitive swimmer and has won medals locally, nationally and internationally. With the help of his brothers he developed a great interest in kayaking and as a result of great determination is competing in the Special Olympics 2003 as part of the Irish kayaking team.

Gearóidín Burke, aged 23 from Newcastle, Galway City was awarded for academic leadership and/or accomplishment. Gary, as she is better known was born with visual impairment and was diagnosed as having non-correctable eyesight with permanent damage of the optic nerve. She attended the National University of Ireland and received a first class honours degree in International Commerce. She is now studying as a trainee tax consultant with KPMG, Dublin one of the top firms in Ireland.

Liam Dilleen, aged 26, from Newcastle, Galway city received his award for business, economic, and/or entrepreneurial accomplishment. While studying for a degree in civil engineering at NUIG an opportunity arose for Liam to set up his own business which resulted in the well-known Terryland Furniture store. Liam buys his stock directly from manufacturers around the world and after four years of working in the business and travelling to source furniture he had firmly established Terryland Furniture as one of the top furniture stores in Galway. In order to further expand he set about extending his premises by 14,000 sq. ft. with a new layout, décor and new stock. From January 2003 the EZ Living franchise replaced Terryland Furniture plans are already in place for a second store based in Limerick.

The outstanding young person is an international competition. The national winners will represent Ireland at the Junior Chamber International World Congress in Copenhagen in November 2003.

For more information on this competition or any other Junior Chamber events/projects check out the junior chamber website at www.juniorchambergalway.ie or phone Rosemarie on (087) 2772883.

Background Information

Junior Chamber Ireland, in association with Pepsi, invites nominations of candidates between 18 and 40 years of age from the Galway area. The Young Person of the Year Award is a National Award run by Junior Chamber Ireland to recognise the achievements of some of the State's young people, in the following ten categories:

- ◆ Business, economic, and/or entrepreneurial accomplishment
- ◆ Political, legal, and/or governmental affairs
- ◆ Academic leadership and/or accomplishment
- ◆ Cultural achievement
- ◆ Moral and/or environmental leadership
- ◆ Contribution to children, world peace, and/or human rights
- ◆ Humanitarian and/or voluntary leadership
- ◆ Scientific and/or technological development
- ◆ Personal improvements and/or accomplishments
- ◆ Medical Innovation

In 2002 Junior Chamber Galway nominated the following people:

Political, Legal, and/or Governmental Affairs

Mr. James McNabb for his successful campaign in obtaining funds for the Ábalta School for autistic children.

Personal Improvement and/or Accomplishment

Mrs. Maggie Woods for her positive outlook on life as a survivor of Thalidomide.

Humanitarian and Voluntary Leadership

Mr. Vincent Casey for his fundraising efforts for the Chernobyl Children's Project.

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