



Laudatio DOMcast

This year, the jury received nine nominations. The three nominees have undertaken interesting but very different activities. Their projects make fascinating reading, but also made it difficult to choose a winner. Nevertheless, the jury has decided unanimously to award this *student prize for special merits* to the students of the podcast project, DOMcast.

Since February, eleven students from various study programmes of the Faculty of Humanities have dedicated themselves to making a series of podcasts about the personal history of a number of Utrecht residents. The podcast, which is supported by the Community Engaged Learning, was originally an internship project but is now much more than that.

With inspiring energy and motivation, the students set to work on the social project. Residents were encouraged to send in questions about the history of Utrecht, after which the students researched the answers to these questions. An important part of the project focused on a question about the unknown identity of a Jewish family. The group gave this family a voice, based on correspondence they found in the archives of the Jewish Cultural Quarter.

Now, the students are investigating whether they can have a lasting memorial to this family in the Jan van Scorelstraat, a so called 'Stolpersteine'. This highlights the connection between the project, Utrecht and its impact on the city.

The jury was impressed by the enthusiasm, ingenuity, involvement and perseverance of the students. They have shown other students how inspiring and engaging research can be. What also appeals to the jury is that DOMcast continued their activities during the corona crisis and continued to produce the podcast despite the current situation.

DOMcast has the potential to grow. Continuity is desired and the jury hopes that DOMcast will be a permanent feature within the university. This project will make it possible for successive groups of students to investigate the local history of Utrecht, providing a lasting link between the city and the university.

In awarding this prize, the jury takes great pleasure in putting these enthusiastic students and their commitment to the local history of Utrecht in the spotlight.