

IASLT Student Conference 2011

The fifth IASLT Student Conference took place at the National University of Ireland, Galway on the 4th and 5th of March 2011. The conference was organised by the student liaison committee, which consists of two student representatives from each of the four colleges, Éanna Corbett & Fiona Ní Mhaolalla (NUIG), Rosin O’Grady & Rachel Moore (TCD), Anna Gillman & Patricia Donnellan (UL), and Shinann Buckley & Karen O’Driscoll (UCC), and is led by the Student Liaison Officer, Aoife McGuire (UL). The conference itself was the product of much collaboration and teamworking on the part of all of the student representatives.

The conference consisted of a wine reception on the evening of the 4th in the College Bar, where students from the four colleges offering the Speech and Language Therapy programme, namely NUI Galway, University of Limerick, Trinity College Dublin and University College Cork met for an evening of fun, food and interaction.

The conference itself took place on the 5th of March and included a number of guest speakers addressing a wide range of topics, who kindly volunteered their time to share their experiences with students. Deirdre Kenny the Chairperson of the IASLT, shared her experiences on the HSE interviews and gave an overview of the IASLT as a professional body. Other speakers shared their experiences on post-graduate experience, working in Private Practice as a new graduate, working abroad and continuous professional development. The final speaker of the day was a man speaking about his lived experience of a stammer, he delivered a moving, uplifting and truthful experience of living his entire life with a stammer.

Overall the conference was attended by a large number of the student body, who shared the general consensus that the conference itself was both interesting and beneficial for student Speech and Language Therapists. The IASLT student conference will take place in University College Cork next year and the members of the IASLT student committee would strongly encourage students to attend what is described as “*a beneficial and thoroughly enjoyable*” event.