An afternoon with Rūta Kupetytė

by Kristijonas Razickas

On November 26th, 2018, Vilnius University’s first year journalists had a lecture with radio host Rūta Kupetytė at the Faculty of Medicine in Vilnius University. Kupetytė herself graduated from Vilnius University ten years ago.

The lecture started at 13:00 with a quick self-introduction by Kupetytė and a presentation of late 90’s/early 2000’s journalistic equipment. Many students were surprised at how technology has changed in the last 20 years: from a two kilogram tape recorder to a small mobile phone that can record both audio and video, which makes journalists more flexible and capable to accomplish several tasks at once.

Kupetytė talked a lot about the first year’s English lecturer, Jeff La Roux and their first meeting while on a plane. They both talked about various Lithuania-related things and Kupetytė was quite surprised at the curiosity La Roux showed about her native country. What shocked Kupetytė the most was La Roux’s fondness of storks that are quite prevalent in Lithuania. Indeed that was not the most common answer when talking about Lithuania with foreigners. She jokingly added that La Roux would make a fine journalist himself if he ever wanted to.

Kupetytė has been working as a radio host for *Lietuvos Radijas* for about eight years. Over the years she has had various personalities on her show including the present Prime Minister of Lithuania, Saulius Skvernelis. She explained much about the ins and outs of the job itself which lifted a shroud of doubt for many students. Towards the very end, Kupetytė showed the young journalists a video containing bloopers that occurred on air over the past years. From technical mistakes to radio hosts forgetting their colleagues’ names, the video had it all.

After the lecture’s official end, students and Kupetytė had a photography session in which several group and individual pictures were taken. Over all, both students and Kupetytė were satisfied with how the lecture had gone by. A good mix of useful tips, interesting facts and humor made the day memorable to many.