**The mind you hear, but never see - radio journalism**

by Laura Tarandaite

The first year at the university can be very frustrating and boring, while providing the student not only with an abundance of knowledge, but also with quite the amount of uncertainty. Like me, many other students are familiar with those feelings, however, on November 26, all the doubts I had had about my studies began to seem not as meaningful as they had the week before. On that day my colleagues and I visited Rūta Kupetytė, the radio journalist at LRT.

About a decade ago Rūta was a first year journalism student, just as we are now. She told us that the frustration we feel now is perfectly understandable and normal, as she had felt the same way. In fact, when Rūta was a senior in high school, she had decided to never become a journalist, however, she is one now. Rūta is a radio host of some of the most popular Lithuanian radio shows like “Ryto Garsai” and “10-12”. She travels around Lithuania and the world to give interviews and visit different conferences.

During the lecture she shared with us not only her life story, but also the interviews she has taken throughout her career and the stories behind them; her fears; told us about her experience being in the middle of the Ukrainian revolution; explained that there are no wrong questions and if someone says that the question a journalist asks is wrong – the opinion should be taken as a compliment; and showed the evolution of journalism equipment in Lithuania from the Soviet era to today. There were also a few things that Kupetytė said that, in my opinion, are important for journalists and students in general. I would like to highlight four of them:

Firstly, there is a great possibility that our lecturers now may become our employers later.

Secondly, only the most unexpected situations will give an opportunity to meet the most interesting people, and that is the reason we always have to communicate with others, even if at that moment we don‘t feel like doing so.

Thirdly, the voice is no longer the priority on the radio – the brain is.

Fourthly, never be afraid of misunderstandings.

It was a delight to see and hear someone talk about journalism with such passion and happiness. Thank you, Rūta Kupetytė, for your time, knowledge and the inspiration you breathed into the first year journalism students.