

## News Release

### Conference for the Romanian Students, Professors and Researchers in the UK

Embassy of Romania-London/ On 23 October 2010, in London, took place the third edition of the Conference for the Romanian Students, Professors and Researchers in the UK, under the patronage of the Embassy of Romania in London, the British-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and the Ratiu Foundation, with the kind support of ROMANi ONLiNE.

The event organized by the Steering Committee of the Conference was attended by over 180 Romanian students, professors and researchers coming from the most important universities in the UK. The Steering Committee is comprised of students, professors and researchers from universities as Canterbury Christ Church, Kent, Warwick, Richmond American University, representatives of the Romanian Cultural Institute–London, ROMANi ONLiNE and Roman in UK, as well as of the Embassy of Romania in London and British-Romanian Chamber of Commerce.

The Conference's main objective is to create a platform of communication and dialogue on various themes of common interest. The Conference became already tradition, building up bridges between the Romanian students, professors and researchers in the UK, as well as with the relevant authorities and organizations in Romania.

This year's Conference was dedicated to the **Professional development**. Along the day, the debates were structured in two parts. In the First Part, the following distinguished guest speakers presented their views: Lord Norman Lamont of Lerwick, former Cabinet minister in both Margaret Thatcher and John Major Governments and Honorary President of the British Romanian Chamber of Commerce; Gerald Russell, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales (ICAEW); Radu Furnica, Chairman of the Leadership Development Solutions and Bogdan Patrniche, Senior Vice-president of the Standard Bank PLC. The Second Part included four workshops that tackled the following subjects: Postgraduate opportunities in the UK and funding; Students, professors and researchers exchanges between Romanian and British universities, Internship opportunities at British companies; Success stories of young Romanians in the UK; Tourism and Events management career opportunities in Romania.

In the opening remarks, the Ambassador of Romania, Dr Ion Jinga, addressed the participants on the importance of pursuing a higher education in shaping the elites and their role in developing our society and promoting Romania's image abroad: *"Bearing in mind what Einstein said: "Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death", I believe that education is instrumental in shaping the elites of a country and what brings a country forward is the dedication and hard work of its most intelligent, talented and experienced people. Innovation is the prerogative of smart people and we all know that Romanians are innovative even in the most difficult times. There are expectations from you and you have a responsibility: to do your best to*

*achieve high standards of academic performance and put into practice what you have learnt”.*

The Ambassador of Romania reminded the audience the significance of this year's celebration marking 130 years of diplomatic relations between Romania and the United Kingdom and reiterated the necessity of preserving the Romanian identity and the importance of every Romanian citizen's contribution to the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

**Lord Lamont**, being profoundly attached to Romania, country he has visited for more than 50 times, welcomed the presence of the Romanian students in the UK education system. The participants were recommended to keep their optimism and continue their schooling and get a higher degree in order to be competitive on the labour market. The higher the education, the more likely it will be to obtain the desired career. **Gerald Russell** talked about the advantages of building a career in the British accounting system, especially during the economic crisis. He presented the main stages of the career of accountancy and the various domains interconnected to this profession. **Radu Furnica** insisted on the important steps in planning a successful career. Analyzing your personal vocation, skills and abilities plays a key role in choosing for the right job. **Bogdan Patrniche** shared his personal experience in building a career in the British banking system. He spoke about the work experience one can achieve from following numerous internships and its benefits for future careers. He encouraged the Romanian students to take advantage of all internship offers in order to gain confidence and be prepared for the harsh competition on the labour market.

The Second Part of the Conference included the presentations made: Nicolae Ratiu, President of the Ratiu Foundation; Elizabeth Davey, International Business Development Manager at ICAEW; Dr Roxana Carare, Medical researcher and Honorary consul of Romania in Southampton; Dr Tim Stratford, Lecturer at School of Engineering of the University of Edinburgh; Ana Becheru, Co-ordinator UK Branch of the LSRS; Georgiana Chiper, Intern at BRCC; Pat Wood, Academic Leader and Director for Corporate and Community Synergy at London Metropolitan Business School; Carmen Moraru, General Director at Romanian Ministry for Regional Development and Tourism; Anne-Marie Martin, CEO of BRCC; Adrian Cherciu, Director of ROMANi ONLINE; Adrian Ion, Director for European Finance at Cornerstone Real Estate Advisers; Dr Felicia Buruiana, Vice-president of the Medical Romanian Society in the UK and Flavia Kenyon, Barrister at the Chambers of John Coffey's Q.C.

The debates revealed the Romanian students' concern for a higher education and specialisation in their chosen fields of study, being extremely interested in doing internships while studying in the UK. Some of them expressed their will to work in the Romanian tourism and to contribute to a better promotion of our country abroad.

The conference concluded with the awarding ceremony of the *Ambassador's Diploma* - a project launched with the occasion of the Conference's 2009

edition, meant to acknowledge the merits of the Romanians living in the United Kingdom - at the next categories: "Students", "Professors", "Researchers" and "Promoting Romania's image". Out of the 15 proposals received by the Steering Committee, following the selection process, were awarded: Irina Iordachescu, Phd student and Student affiliate at the London School of Economics and Adriana Festeu, Mezzo soprano and student at the Guildhall Academy of Music, at "Students category"; Dr Sandu Popescu, Professor of Quantum physics at Bristol University, at „Professors category”; Dr Roxana Carare MD, Director of MMedSc of Clinical Neurosciences at Southampton General Hospital, Lecturer in neuroclinical sciences at the University of Southampton, Medical Researcher in finding opportunities for prevention and therapy of the Alzheimer’s disease and Honorary Consul of Romania in Southampton, at the “Researchers category”; and Alexandra Dariescu, pianist, considered “one of the most versatile pianists of her generation”, at "Promoting Romania's image" category.

For more information about the Conference, please enter its website: [www.rostudent.co.uk](http://www.rostudent.co.uk).

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