

## NSF GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Hello, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Claire and I had the pleasure of taking over as Chair of the National Students Forum (NSF) at the recent Association of CIPFA Lecturers (ACIPFAL)/NSF conference held in Coventry.

I am really looking forward to my forthcoming year as Chair; it will be a challenging and interesting year due to the impending integration vote between CIPFA and ICAEW. I hope to build on the success that both Jane Cuthbertson and Martina Lee have already achieved with the NSF and aim to ensure the Forum goes from strength to strength. I also want to ensure that the student's views are heard in the forthcoming integration discussions.

I am an extremely lucky person to have the pleasure of working with such a fantastic NSF team and to have the continued support and guidance of CIPFA in the next year.

I just want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Martina for all her hard work and passion in the last year for the NSF, she will be a hard act to follow.

In the last month the NSF have had a visible presence at the CIPFA career conference in Manchester. The day was a success with over 40 students attending the event.

Two weeks later the NSF descended upon Coventry for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual NSF conference held in conjunction with the ACIPFAL conference. The conference was an overwhelming success with over 130 students attending. We even, regrettably, had to turn student bookings away in the last week. Presentations included:

- A talk from Martina Lee on the NSF successes and developments
- An excellent exam tip and advice session from Graham Ball (Nottingham Trent University)
- Curtis Jurman gave an inspirational presentation on his career
- Leslie Radford (Reed Accountancy Personnel) discussed motivation and the associated techniques
- Tony Redmond gave the students an update on the consolidation process, and an opportunity to ask questions about the process.
- Heather Jasper gave an informative presentation on the Gershon review.

From the feedback questionnaires you kindly filled in the majority of the views expressed is that the conference was excellent and you would like a similar event in 2006.

Another section of feedback that was interesting was a vote on the impending integration vote. For information, the students at the conference voted:

- 59% YES
- 8% NO
- 33% Unsure

If you have anymore comments or issues on the integration process please let us know at [NSF@cipfa.org](mailto:NSF@cipfa.org)

The finale of the ACIPFAL conference was the gala dinner, where the Excellence in Education Award was presented. The 2005 winner was George Foster from Liverpool John Moores University. George was a popular winner with the students due to the continued support and mentoring that he provides as a lecturer. The award is special in its nature because the nominations come directly from the CIPFA students.

Finally, I would like to make a plea for volunteers. The NSF solely relies on student volunteers to continue the excellent work for the CIPFA students. Is anyone fancies a challenging and rewarding role and the ability to make a difference for CIPFA students please let us know at [NSF@cipfa.org](mailto:NSF@cipfa.org) or contact me directly on [Claire.Gravil@dbh.nhs.uk](mailto:Claire.Gravil@dbh.nhs.uk)

If you would like more information on the NSF or copies of the presentations from the conference please log on to our website [www.cipfa.org.uk/eandt/nsf](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/eandt/nsf)

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