

## Activities of the newly formed AAPG Student Chapter of Sofia University in 2016

### Дейности на новосформираната студентска секция на AAPG в Софийския университет през 2016 г.

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The Sofia University Student Chapter of AAPG was established in the beginning of 2016. During the current year, the newly formed chapter was actively contributing to student community growth, enriching educational culture and expanding geological expertise of its members. As a young part of the AAPG world, we met new people – professors, students and people from petroleum business, as every one of them contributed to our future development as geologists.

In the past few months, we challenged ourselves in different ways: we travelled to Romania, France and Hungary, we visited seminars, lectures, courses, laboratories and international conferences, we invited a geoscience lecturer from Italy, and all the while, we learnt a lot.

In April 2016, 5 of our chapter members (Stela Stoyanova, Djeni Dancheva, Borislava Borisova, Jason Dinev and Sylvester Kanev) participated with presentations and posters in the XVII Geology and Geophysics Students’ National Symposium, which took place in Bucharest, Romania. There were participants from Romania, France and Bulgaria as every one of them represented a research report in the field of geology and geophysics, mining and drilling. Among the large number of participants, our chapter member Jason Dinev, with his “Structural characteristics from part of the Plakalnitsa fault zone part from the NW Bulgaria” won the first place for best presentation of the Structural geology section (Fig. 1). He received his award at a ceremony at the end of the conference, along with the best ones from the other sections.

In July, 2 of the chapter members (George Markov and Sylvester Kanev) participated in The Fourth AAPG European Student Chapter Leadership Days, which took place in Hungary. During this event, the participants had the opportunity to play geological games, visit University of Szeged’s laboratory and at-

tend lectures of Stuart Harker, János Balahó, Tivadar M. Tóth and Gergely Dabi in the subject of various aspects of geology, and our young chapter got the opportunity to introduce itself to many other chapters – from Romania, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, Ukraine, Nederland, Croatia.

Also in July, other 2 of our chapter members (Borislava Borisova and Simona Simeonova) were selected as delegates at Total Energy Summer School (TESS 2016) in Fontainebleau, France (Fig. 2). TESS is a forum where many students from different countries around the world, together with TOTAL experts



**Fig. 1.** The award and certificate of Jason Dinev for the best presentation in Structural geology section



Fig. 2. Simona and Borislava at TESS 2016

and professors from partner universities, team up to collectively discuss energy-related global issues and come up with ideas. The topics that were a subject of discussion along with the sustainable energy problem were The Classroom of the Future or how education systems will change in the near future, and Diversity – how to overcome our differences in a globalized world. All students were involved in the Student Challenge



Fig. 3. Dr. Raffaele Di Cuia with members of the Sofia University AAPG Student Chapter

where teams were working on presentations and practical solutions for problems in the mentioned areas. In the end one of these teams won and was given the opportunity to present their idea to the TOTAL experts' board. The winning team had a Bulgarian student in it – namely our chapter member Borislava.

In the beginning of June and October, several members of our AAPG chapter, among all participants mainly from Sofia University and University of Mining and Geology, attended courses organized by TPA (Total Professors Association) and TOTAL E.P. & Bulgaria B.V. with the support of TOTAL. The topic of the first course was Structural Interpretation in Petroleum Exploration, led by Professor Jean-Marie Flament. The second course in October was focused on Hydrocarbon Exploration Through Seismic Techniques with lecturer Prof. Abdelkader Chaouch. The courses were composed of two parts: lecture part in the form of presentations, and exercises for structural, seismic, and seismostratigraphic interpretations based on seismic data. At the end of the courses the participants took an exam and they were rewarded with the corresponding certificates.

Later in October, a few members of the chapter took part of the Fourth Annual Black Sea Oil and Gas Conference 2016, which was held in Sofia. Three of the students were volunteers in the organization of the conference. The main topics were related to the oil and gas exploration in Black Sea and energy infrastructural projects.

On October 25th Sofia University AAPG Student Chapter was a host to lectures from Dr. Raffaele Di Cuia, as an AAPG Visiting Geoscientist (Fig. 3). He has 19 years of practice in the field of petroleum industry as he is an expert in drilling projects related to characterization of fractured reservoirs, seismic interpretation, modeling of reservoirs and reassessment of old oilfield. The topics of his lectures in Sofia were “Fractured carbonate reservoirs”: “Life is beautiful” and “Can a HC mature basin still present some positive surprises?”

The year of 2016 was full of new experience, study-related travels, friendships and worthy efforts. In the future, we will work for establishing the AAPG Student Chapter as a serious student organization, as well as spreading the word of its benefits among the younger colleagues.