

It's called 'The Petroleum Geosciences Social Event', and it's an occasion that the students, faculty, and staff from the Geosciences department at Abu Dhabi's Petroleum Institute all look forward to.

This year's event on 15 March, organized by the EAGE Student Chapter in the Petroleum Institute, will once again focus on various fun activities and sports competitions between students and their instructors. It's a way for everyone to meet and get to know and understand each other outside the formal setting of the classroom. Our pictures show that last year's event in April 2010 was a great success.

Student life is not all social however! If you've ever wondered what it's like to be studying geosciences these days, well, here are some comments gathered from some members of the EAGE Student Chapter in the Petroleum Institute of Abu Dhabi. Their impressions make a great advertisement for the discipline and the opportunities it offers ... and they didn't get any prompting from us!

What they said ...

'Being a geosciences student has opened many doors towards an exciting future with plenty of

Socializing is only one part of student life!



PI students out in the field with their supervisors.

job opportunities, and academic research topics. The way problems are addressed is very challenging, yet it is engaging and encouraging to solve a problem with passion and patience. Also, I was privileged to work as an undergraduate research assistant and to present papers at several international conferences. It was really exciting



to meet other geoscientists from different parts of the world and to see that we geoscientists, despite cultural and political boundaries, share many things in common such as the passion for science and being outdoors to study.' *Ahmed Hassan*

'I thought that geosciences involved only geology. But through the entire years of my study, especially the junior and senior years, I found that it is a combination of many sciences. For example, I found physics and math in geophysics and petrophysics, chemistry in general geology and mineralogy, and biology in the paleontology. Therefore, I am proud to be a geoscientist.' *Ahmed Al Hanaei*

'My experience has been amazing since I have been exposed to lots of different activities. The field trips associated with the courses added new flavour to the courses and enhanced my understanding of the theory. I personally like to walk around, collect data, and examine the earth's layers and surface. I prefer to be surrounded by nature such as mountains and trees rather than cars and buildings, so the geosciences for me are an adventure study!' *Amena Al Shehhi*

'It gives me the chance to study a broad-ranging science that could be applied in many disciplines. Field trips are the most interesting part of studying geosciences because it is where you can apply your knowledge and improve other skills, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and cooperating with other people. I am interested particularly in geophysics and petrophysics where we can use physical measurements to image the subsurface and better understand its rock properties.' *Miaad Alhammadi*

The experience of being at an EAGE meeting

Try Not To Miss it!

'For a student from the Middle East, it was a great experience for me to participate in the last EAGE Conference held in Barcelona. Beside the technical side, it was also very nice to be exposed to a different culture and learn something as well about Spanish traditions, food and language.' *Ammar El Husseiny*

Ahmed Hassan from the EAGE Student Chapter of the Petroleum Institute is pictured here while presenting his poster in Barcelona. Participating at an EAGE Conference, either by taking part in a competition or presenting a paper, can help students to get closer to the professional world and also exchange ideas and receive useful feedback.

Students, especially from the Middle East, have the opportunity to experience a part of Europe they may not be acquainted with. For example, the upcoming EAGE Conference in Vienna offers the chance to learn not only about science and technology, but also to build bridges between different cultures. The EAGE's Annual Meeting is not to be missed!

