

LIST OF EVENTS
ORGANIZED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY EVENTS OFFICE
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016

OPENING CONVOCATION, SEPT 9, 2015

An Opening Convocation Ceremony was held on Sept 9, 2015, bringing back the tradition from the first years of the University. The ceremony gathered the AUBG community including faculty, administration, staff and students at an academic event to enhance the community spirit and welcome students from over 40 countries to its campus for the opening of the 25th AUBG academic year. The program of the ceremony included greetings by President Kevin Aspegren, Provost Steven Sullivan and SG President Mario Grachenov; a video that captured the major institutional, academic, student and club achievements. Also, a matriculation ceremony was held, during which two students from the incoming Class of 2019 signed in a mock- matriculation book on behalf of the Bulgarian and the international students. The AUBG Choir performed the academic hymn "Gaudeamus Igitur" for the academic procession. In terms of attendance there were close to 40 staff members, around 300-400 students, as well as all faculty and the leadership team.

More about the Opening Convocation Ceremony can be found at <http://www.aubg.edu/news/aubg-welcomes-students-at-the-2015-opening-convocation-811>

NAMING CEREMONY FOR THE DR. CARL DJERASSI THEATER HALL, OCT 17, 2015

The Naming ceremony for the Dr. Carl Djerassi Theater Hall was held on October 17, 2015, when AUBG board members, students, faculty and staff gathered to commemorate and honor Dr. Djerassi for his generous donation to AUBG. Among the special guests were members of the doctor's family, some of Dr. Carl Djerassi's friends, the former Bulgarian Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov. In addition to the name unveiling ceremony, the program included greetings by President Kevin Aspegren, Mr. Dale Djerassi, son of Dr. Carl Djerassi, H.E. Mr. Philip Dimitrov and the Chair of the AUBG Board of Trustees Dr. Ivan Manev. Included in the program were also a screening of an interview with Dr. Carl Djerassi part of the documentary "49,172," as well as a performance of Scene 7 from Dr. Djerassi's play "An Immaculate Misconception," staged by AUBG students and faculty. The event was organized in collaboration with the AUBG Development Office.

More about the theater hall naming ceremony can be found at <https://www.aubg.edu/news/the-abf-theater-becomes-the-dr-carl-djerassi-theater-hall-843>

SANTA CLAUS PARTY, DEC 11, 2015

The Santa Claus Party is a traditional event for the children and grandchildren of AUBG faculty and staff members which contributes a lot for enhancing the community spirit at AUBG. In the event this year participated 115 kids. First Provost Sullivan greeted the audience and then the event continued with a twenty-minute presentation of Christmas songs and poems performed by the children. At the end all kids received small presents from Santa Claus. At the event held on December 11, 2015, a total of 115 kids received small presents from Santa Claus.

AMBASSADOR ELENA POPTODOROVA DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS SERIES

Dec 2, 2015 H.E. Mr. Mykola Baltazhy, Ambassador of Ukraine to Bulgaria made a presentation on the topic "Ukraine: Paths ahead." The Ambassador Elena Poptodorova Distinguished Lecturers Series aims to initiate and contribute to open discussions of timely political and social issues of both regional and global importance. The Series is funded by the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and was founded in 2009 by a dedicated group of AUBG students. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/ambassador-mykola-baltazhy-ukraine-remains-on-international-agenda-887>

BULGARIAN POETS AND WRITERS SERIES

Oct 20, 2015 Ms. Zdravka Evtimova, Bulgarian author and literary translator from English, French and German presented her book "Bitter Sky."

Nov 30, 2015 Mr. Ani Ilkov, Bulgarian poet who has received an award for poetry for his book "Preparing to leave the heart" at the ceremony of the first literary prizes "Pen" 2015 read poems from his book "The Organic Wind" and talked about creative writing. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/aubg-guest-is-winning-the-battle-with-words-883>

Feb 2, 2016 Ms. Aksinia Mihaylova, Bulgarian poet who has won a very prestigious French Award read her poetry "Unbuttoning the Body." More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/unbuttoning-the-body-the-poetry-of-aksinia-mihaylova-920>

March 1, 2016 Profesor Boyan Biolchev, Former Rector of Sofia University (1999 - 2007), President of the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency and President of the Accreditation Council, as well Bulgarian linguist, writer and screenwriter, read from his work "A Voyage Around the Earth."

March 8, 2016 Ms. Yuliana Velichkovska, Macedonian poet, writer, translator and board member of the international cultural event Velestovo Poetry Night, Ohrid, Macedonia, read from her work "Seasons."

PANITZA COMMUNIST LECTURERS SERIES

Apr 14, 2016 Dr. Dušan I. Bjelić, Professor at the University of Southern Maine USA, co-editor of the book "Balkan as Metaphor: Between Globalization" and Fragmentation Books: Galileo's Pendulum: Science, Sexuality and the Body-Instrument Link, published in 2003; Normalizing the Balkans: Geopolitics of Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis, published in 2011, made a presentation on the topic "The Class-Nation Ambiguity and the Post-Communist 'War of Races.'"

OTHER PRESENTATIONS PART OF THE DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS SERIES

Oct 20, 2015 Prof. Victor Neumann, professor of Central and East European contemporary history at the Faculty of Letters, History and Theology within the West University of Timisoara, Romania, and director of the Centre for Advanced Studies in History made a presentation on the topic "Multiculturalism, <fusion of horizons> and conceptualizing modernity in Central and Southeast Europe."

Nov 10, 2015 Mr. Andrea Raimondi, Business Consultant and Auditor, Senior Partner of Raimondi & Partners, Italy, talked about "How to Trust – Family Office and International Business."

Nov 11, 2015 H. E. Mr. Jean Faltz, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Bulgaria presented "The Luxembourg Rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union: Challenges and Prospects."

Nov 25, 2015 Dr. Andrea Favaro, attorney at law and professor of law at the Studium Generale Marcianum, a theological seminary based in Venice, Italy, talked about "The Justification of Taxes and the Foundations of the State: The Habermas-Sloterdijk Debate."

- Dec 3, 2015** Mr. Ivailo Penev, Portfolio Manager of ELANA Fund Management talked about “The money/asset management business in Bulgaria.” Organized in cooperation with AUBG business department and AUBG student business club.
- Feb 10, 2016** Mr. Zdenek Metelak, Member of the Management Board, Executive Officer and Director of Retail and Network Division, Societe Generale Expressbank presented “The Risk of Banking Industry and Related Controls.” More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/societe-generales-executive-officer-zdenek-metelak-on-the-risk-of-banking-industry-935>
- Feb 25, 2016** Ms. Polly Fistolera, founder of BISEI (Bulgarian Institute for Social and Emotional Intelligence) and the only licensed professional in Bulgaria for assessment, analysis and evaluation of Emotional Intelligence, psychotherapist, coach, trainer on the topic of Emotional intelligence with more than 15 years of experience life made a presentation on the topic “What is Emotional Intelligence.”
- March 9, 2016** H.E. Mr. Tom J.M. van Oorschot, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bulgaria talked about “The Dutch EU-Presidency and the Fundamental Values of the EU.” More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/dutch-ambassador-to-bulgaria-discusses-the-rule-of-law-at-aubg-968>
- March 23, 2016** Mr. Nikolay Stoykov, Managing Director and Portfolio Manager of Alaric Securities made a presentation on “Building a Personal Trading System.” Organized in cooperation with the AUBG AT&M club and business club.
- March 31, 2016** Mr. Alexander Nestorov, Marketing Manager at SAP for Bulgaria and coordinator of global events on SAP CEE and AUBG Class of 2012, presented the “Impact of Simplified Innovation to our Business and Life.”
- Apr 20, 2016** Prof. Ken Heather, University of Portsmouth, part time lecturer in the Department of Economics and Finance and author of 3 textbooks, and his assistant Ms. Simka Stefanova made a presentation on the topic “Dealing with Public Sector Debt: Alternative Solutions,” followed by oligopoly game.
- Apr 27, 2016** Mr. Piero Meogrossi, Architect, Official MIBACT R.O Chief Architect of Monuments Superintendence of Venice (1980-1983) and of Roman Archaeological Superintendence (SSBAR 1983-2011) and curator of the Coliseum in Rome as well, talked about the “Mediterranean Road from Crete to Rome.”

OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS ORGANIZED IN COOPERATION WITH DIFFERENT AUBG DEPARTMENTS AND STUDENT CLUBS

- Oct 13, 2015** Ms. Edit Herczog, Former Member of the European parliament from 2004 to 2014 and former Vice-President of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats (S&D) talked about “The EU Energy Union: The way to progress.” Organized in cooperation with the AUBG Department of the Politics and European Studies and the European Society Club. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/the-eu-energy-union-everyone-has-a-right-to-electricity-842>

- Oct 19, 2015** Ms. Nikolina Angelkova, Minister of Tourism of Republic of Bulgaria, made a presentation on “Challenges and Opportunities for Women in Government,” part of “Women2Women” guest speaker series of the Women & Gender Recourses Center directed by Prof. Dannie Chalk. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/bulgarias-minister-of-tourism-inspires-aubg-students-846>
- Nov 25, 2015** Dr. Felix Diaz, Senior lecturer in psychology at the University of Castilla-La Mancha, Talavera de la Reina in Spain made a presentation on the topic "Body Image within Eating Disorders." Organized by the AUBG ALL Department. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/body-image-a-game-of-mirrors-885>
- Feb 4, 2016** Mr. John Hazlewood, founder and CEO of SharingXchange Startup shared how to “Learn About SharingXchange and the Sharing Economy.” Organized in cooperation with the AUBG development office, business club and AT&M club. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/john-hazlewood-brings-the-sharing-economy-together-922>
- Feb 10, 2016** H.E. Mr. Xavier Lapeyre de Cabanes, “Ambassador of the Republic of France to Bulgaria talked about “The Struggle Against Terrorism: A Challenge for Democracies.” Organized in cooperation with AUBG POS department and POS club. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/the-french-ambassador-to-bulgaria-discusses-terrorism-in-front-of-aubg-students-and-faculty-930>
- Feb 23, 2016** Fulbright Commission representatives, the Executive Director Ms. Angela Rodel, and the Program Officer Ms. Maria Kostova, talked about “Fulbright Grants for Bulgarian Citizens: Opportunities for graduate studies, specializations, lecturing and research in the US for academic 2017-18.” Organized by the Provost’s Office.
- Feb 26, 2016** Mr. Yavor Alexiev, Bulgarian economics analyst from the Institute for Market Economics and co-author of “Anatomy of the Crisis” presented the “Current economic situation.” Organized by the AUBG economics club. More information about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/renowned-economic-researchers-present-a-new-book-at-aubg-957>
- March 4, 2016** Mr. Thierry Joubert, Via Dinarica Alliance member, and Gergana Nikolova, Adventure Travel Trade Association representative, talked about “The Tourism Industry and How It Transforms Places and People.” Organized by the AUBG BUS Department.
- March 26-27, 2016** StartUP@ Blagoevgrad Conference, an annual forum for entrepreneurs, investors, students and young people who want to start their own business. Its purpose is to awaken the entrepreneurial spirit among young people in Bulgaria and to show them how to turn their ideas into successful businesses. Organized by StartUP@ Blagoevgrad. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/twist-explore-expand-the-fifth-annual-startup-conference-987>

- March 29, 2016** Guest lecture of Mr. Maxim Behar, CEO of M3 Communications and President of International Communications Consultancy Organization, on the topic “ICCO: World in the Social Media House” as part of the business week vol. 2. Organized by the AUBG business club. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/maxim-behar-on-the-new-face-of-media-ownership-998>
- Apr 9, 2016** TEDx AUBG Conference, an annual forum which gathers entrepreneurs, investors, students and young people, who want to launch a business. Organized by TEDx AUBG.
- Apr 11, 2016** Ninth Language and Culture Week: Language and Culture Treasure Hunt as well as Flamenco Workshop with Jesus El Killo, an Andalusian musician. Organized by AUBG ALL Department.
- Apr 12, 2016** Ninth Language and Culture Week: Artistic performances and presentations by students from the MLL classes feat. Guest vocal and dance groups and folklore workshop with Folklore Ensemble Biser. Organized by AUBG ALL Department.
- Apr 13, 2016** Workshop “Freedom of Academic Speech.” Organized by AUBG ALL Department.
- Apr 15, 2016** Folklore spectacle “The Windmill,” by Bulgarian author Elin Pelin, performed by AUBG Bulgarian Folklore Dance Club Samodiva, and AUBG Female Folklore Ensemble Svetlina.
- Apr 19, 2016** Georgi Bylgarski, Director of the Trading, Listing and Membership Directorate at the Bulgarian Stock Exchange (BSE) presented the “Professional certificates in the Investment Industry CFA, FRM, CAIA or CDT.” Organized by AUBG AT&M Club.
- Apr 23, 2016** Marathon with the participation of AUBG community members and Bagoevgrad high schools students. Organized by AUBG Olympics, admissions office and the Blagoevgrad Municipality.
- Apr 23, 2016** Concert “Spring Festival” with the participation of the AUBG Rock and Jamming Club, Band on a Horse, Ninja Turtles, Borjomi and NaNa and The GanG. Organized by AUBG Rock and Jamming Club, admissions office and the Blagoevgrad Municipality.
- Apr 24, 2016** AUBG Olympics, the biggest sport event organized annually for the University community. It aims to promote the spirit of sport and health among the AUBG students, to make their everyday life more interesting and give them the opportunity to demonstrate their sports talents. Organized by AUBG Olympics.
- Apr 25, 2016** Reception for AUBG Community. Organized by the President’s Office.
- Apr 26, 2016** Dr. Lilyana Pavlova, Minister of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria talked about the “Visit and Presentation: “Regional policy as an instrument to increase the investment attractiveness of the regions.” Organized by the President’s Office.

Apr 27, 2016 Citibank final business plan competition for the students of the AUBG entrepreneurship classes. Organized by the AUBG Business Department.

Apr 27, 2016 Mr. Willy-Pierre Abbbal, COO of Societe General Bulgaria made a presentation on the topic “Change Management in Today’s Business.” Organized by the AUBG Business Department.

CONCERTS

Dec 3, 2015 Evening of Vocal music with the special participation of students from "Vocal Productions NYC", a non-profit-organization, committed to produce the highest caliber of vocal stage experience, Director Valentin Peytchinov, and the AUBG Choir, Conductor Prof. Hristo Krotev, Piano Accompaniment Nikolina Kroteva;

Dec 9, 2015 Christmas Concert of Applied Harp and Piano Students of Prof. Anna-Maria Ravnopolska-Dean Ph.D., A.D. More about the event can be found at: <https://www.aubg.edu/news/harp-and-piano-sounds-bring-a-christmas-spirit-to-aubg-893>);

Dec 10, 2015 Concert of Prof. Hristo Krotev’s Applied Music Voice Class;

Dec 15, 2015 Christmas Piano Concert “Silver Bell” of the students from Zlatka Taskova-Stoycheva’s piano class at the Art Center Blagoevgrad;

Dec 23, 2015 Christmas and New Year Concert of the City Children Choir of Chitalishte “N. Y. Vaptsarov - 1866” Blagoevgrad, Conductor Prof. Hristo Krotev, Choirmaster and Piano Accompaniment Ms. Nikolina Kroteva.

March 26, 2016 Spring Concert “Spring Steps” of the students from Nadezhda Georgieva’s ballet class, Art Center Blagoevgrad.

March 26, 2016 Piano concert of the students from the piano class of Ivanka Koliashева - Chitalishte “Nikola Vaptsarov-1866” Blagoevgrad.

March 30, 2016 Spring Concert of the City Children Choir of Chitalishte “N. Y. Vaptsarov - 1866” Blagoevgrad, Conductor Prof. Hristo Krotev, Choirmaster and Piano Accompaniment Ms. Nikolina Kroteva.

Apr 3, 2016 Jazz Concert of a Jazz Ensemble from the National Music Academy, Sofia, Conductor: Ms. Tamara Mavrova.

Apr 8, 2016 Concert of the AUBG Choir, Conductor Prof. Hristo Krotev, Piano Accompaniment Ms. Nikolina Kroteva and Mixed Choir Terpsichore, France, Conductor Mr. Dominique Patrouilleau, Piano Accompaniment Ms. Dessislava Patrouilleau.

Apr 21, 2016 Concert “Evening of Vocal Music” of the Applied Music Voice Class of Prof. Hristo Krotev.

Apr 27, 2016 Concert Piano and Harp of the Students of Prof. Anna-Maria Ravnopolska-Dean’s Piano and Harp Class.

EXHIBITIONS

- Sept. 28 – Oct 10, 2015** Paintings Exhibition by Svetlin Abadzhiev, artist and art teacher from Blagoevgrad;
- Oct 19 – 30, 2015** Photo Exhibition “15 Years You and Your Friends” of the Blagoevgrad Folklore Ensemble Biser;
- Nov 30 – Dec 11, 2015** Art Works Exhibition “Hobby Delights” by Tsarimira Georgieva and Kalinka Spasova, artists and art teachers from Blagoevgrad;
- Dec 7 – 22, 2015** Photo Exhibition: “The Mountain. A Different World” by Dr. Mihail Nikolov, M.D.;
- Dec 14 – 22, 2015** Art Works Exhibition “Colorful Wonders: with love for Nadezhda Kuncheva (1933-2013).”
- Feb 25 – March 1, 2016** Martentsi Bazaar made by the Participants in the Complex for Social Services for Adults with Impairments (DCCAI “Svetlina”, DCCAI “Zornitsa” and Sheltered housing.) Funds were raised for an organized trip to Bachevo village.
- Feb 29 – March 9, 2016** Exhibition: “Peace and Justice,” kindly provided by The Embassy of the Netherlands. The exhibition presented cartoons, part of the eponymous project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and combined selected cartoons from around the world with those created by the famous Bulgarian cartoonist Ilian Savkov on ideas of Bulgarian students.
- March 5 – 10, 2016** Exhibition: “Never Again,” in the framework of the Holocaust Remembrance Day. Organized by the AUBG Model European Club in cooperation with the University Events Office and the Panitza Library.

BOOK PRESENTATIONS

- Dec 14, 2015** Gergana Apostolova, Associate Professor of English at the SWU in Blagoevgrad and founder of the Creative Writing Club “Worlds of Words” presented her new book “The Eighth Hill.”
- Apr 21, 2016** Book presentation and an exhibition “Women’s Memories of the Russo-Ottoman War” in the framework of the XXV International Round Table “Stars on the Balkans” 21-23 April 2016. Organized by the International University Seminar for Balkan Studies and Specialization, South-West University “Neofit Rilski,” Blagoevgrad, Institute of National History, Skopje, Macedonia and the American University in Bulgaria.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS CLUB ASSISTANCE

Trained and experienced members of the student ambassadors had a significant contribution to the success of the Naming ceremony for the Dr. Carl Djerassi Theater Hall and the Santa Claus Party. Members of the club also led tours of AUBG campus and Blagoevgrad for most of the lecturers and the guests listed above as well as during the following visits:

- Oct 2, 2015** Visit of the General Manager Mr. Stephan Reiter and 12 departmental heads of Hilton Sofia;

- Oct 9-10, 2015** AUBG Alumni during the Alumni Homecoming Weekend;
- Oct 14, 2015** Visit of Mr. Ivan Ivanov, Regional Area Manager for the Vision Care Division of Alcon and other Representatives of Alcon;
- Nov 10, 2015** Visit of Mr. Georgi Kostov – Jorj, radio host at The Voice and administrative director of BSS Media Group, for the “The Voice Evening @AUGBG” organized by the OCM team;
- Nov 14, 2015** Prospective students and their parents during the Open House Day organized by the Admissions Office.
- Feb 10, 2016** Visit of Professor Peter Stuttgen, prospective faculty in Business, organized by the Dean of Faculty Office.
- Feb 17, 2016** Visit of Professor Dr. Arthur Pantelides, prospective faculty in Business, organized by the Dean of Faculty Office.
- Feb 20, 2016** Prospective students and their parents during the Open House Day organized by the Admissions Office.
- March 7, 2016** Visit of Professor Giles Timms, prospective faculty in Journalism and Mass Communication, organized by the Dean of Faculty Office.
- March 24, 2016** Visit of Professor Ilya Levine, prospective faculty in Political Science, organized by the Dean of Faculty Office.
- March 28, 2016** Visit of Professor Cyle O’Donnel, prospective faculty in Journalism and Mass Communication, organized by the Dean of Faculty Office.
- March 29, 2016** Visit of Professor Tomer Libal, prospective faculty in Computer Science, organized by the Dean of Faculty Office.
- Apr 14, 2016** Visit of Professor Robert Koychev, prospective faculty in Mathematics, organized by the Dean of Faculty Office.