

PERSONALITIES AMONG US

“A dream come true”- Prof. Ph. D. eng. D.H.C. Ștefan Covaci at the age of 90 years old

On October 07, 2011, inside the Department of Mining Engineering, Surveying and Construction from the University of Petroșani it took place the festivity for celebrating the Prof. Ph. D. eng. D.H.C. Ștefan Covaci at the age of 90 years old.

Professor Ștefan Covaci was born in Petrila, a mining town situated on the bank of Eastern Jiu River, on October 9, 1921, in a miners family. He attended the courses of the first four forms at the Primary School in Petrila, and the next four of high school forms in Petroșani. Because of the financial difficulties at the age of 14 years he had been employed as a day laborer in the Petrila mine for 2 years, and then he was switched to underground. Eager to continue his studied, he enrolled at the School of Mining Foremen in Petroșani that in 1945 became the School of Sub-Engineers, which he graduated in 1947. In the same year he enrolled at the Polytechnic Institute in Timișoara, Mining Faculty that he completed with the mark "cum laude" having been assigned at the Mine in Derna-Tătăruș.

During 1949-1953 he continued his studies at the Mining Institute in Saint Petersburg. After this period he worked as a temporary university professor at the Mining Institute in Bucharest. In 1956 he was appointed as a director of Institute of Coal in Petroșani and in 1957, when it was focused on the higher education in Petroșani, he was appointed as rector. His teaching activity was developed as a university professor until 1990 when he was retired. He held the positions of rector and head of department. Since 1990 he had worked as a teacher consultant until 2004 and he still maintains a close connection with the mining school in Petroșani.

Since 1967, he received a doctoral right under his direct guidance and obtained the Ph.D. title, 19 specialists in the mining field.

Through his scientific experience or his teaching talent during he worked in the mining of higher education, his attention was directed toward: developing the mining science and technology, training the curricula and teaching; widening contacts between the higher mining schools in Petroșani with other prestigious universities abroad.

Together with Professor Covaci, many teachers worked into the underground mines, some of whom there are renowned experts in production today, but also those who now form the basis of the mining school in Petroșani. Professor Ștefan Covaci is the

one who wrote the first manual and treaty in the field of underground mining, works that the students learn after and the Ph. D. students study after, but also refresh their knowledge and those working in production, research and design.

Professor Covaci is a man of high reputation stint with recognition and appreciation in the development of mining science, both domestically and worldwide. The activity produced a large number of works of great value, which he published in journals and scientific papers in the country and abroad and has supported international conferences and congresses. Thanks to his prestigious activities in 1960 he was elected a member of the Romanian Mining Committee and became an active member of the International Organizing Committee of World Mining Congress Mining. From 1960-1989 he worked steadily in the International Organizing Committee, the messenger stint Romanian mining, making the high school achievements to be known worldwide the mining school of Petroșani.

In 1989 prof. Ph.D. eng. D.H.C. Ștefan Covaci was named Honorary Member of the International Committee for his contributions to the development of the mining science around the world.

At this ceremony there were attended many teachers from the university, as follows: the Rector, Prof. Ph.D. eng mat. Emil Pop, the former rectors -.

Prof. Ph.D. eng. Dumitru Fodor, Prof. Ph.D. eng. Nicolae Dima, some specialists of high reputation, who led to their shoulders the manufacturing activity in the Jiu Valley: Eng. Iulian Costescu (former General Manager and Deputy Minister), engineer Victor Apostu (former assistant of the professor Ștefan Covaci and former Manager of mine), Ph.D. eng Voicescu Benor (former Manager of mine), Eng. Tomuș Alexander (former Ph. D student of Prof. Ștefan Covaci and Head of current laboratory of ICPMC Petroșani), ec. Bârsan Iosif (former economic manager, a close friend of Professor Ștefan Covaci) and journalists from local newspapers.

The Festive meeting was opened by the Director of the Department of Mining Engineering, Surveying and Construction, Prof. Ph. D. eng Constantin Semen, which showed that all Prof. Ștefan Covaci work of training took place in this department (formerly named the Mining Department) which continued to strengthen the prestige obtained at the time when Professor Ștefan

Covaci was a rector of the Mining Institute and head of this department.

The Dean of the Mining Faculty, Professor Ph.D. eng. Ioan Dumitrescu, in his speech said that "... today is the event on our gratitude to all Your work, ...You have managed to awaken the conscience of many of us, the real value ... and you had no strategy for the people to love you. Our duty is to keep alive the history of this institution, written by personalities like you ". During this ceremony, the Dean of the Mining Faculty handed to Professor Ștefan Covaci the "Diploma of Excellence" as a tribute to his whole career.

Rector of University of Petroșani - prof. Ph.D. eng. mat. Emil Pop - noted the mark of Prof. Ștefan Covaci personality to this institution since its establishment until today. "The difficulties that they faced the University of Petroșani, the teachers were able to go through all the vicissitudes of life, throughout its history. The greatest wealth of this school is the teachers who managed to overcome all these difficulties "- said the rector Emil Pop. During this festivity, the rector handed, from the office of the Senate, to the first rector of the Mining Institute of Petroșani, during 1956-1963, the "Diploma of Honor". Taking the word to the conclusion of the ceremony of Rector said to Professor Ștefan Covaci that "... it is our spiritual father and supporter of all our schools. School is based on some pillars, and Professor Ștefan Covaci is the main pillar. "

Prof. Ph. D. Badulescu Dumitru, the former assistant to the professor Ștefan Covaci, was invited to read the message of the Department of Mining Engineering, Surveying and Construction, as an expression of gratitude of the teachers from this department and in particular from the teaching staff from mining department to the contribution of the great personality of Prof. Ștefan Covaci to the development of this department "You have made generations of graduates who have awakened a sense of dignity, professional dedication and love for their chosen profession. In all mining areas in the country and even abroad, the former students will appreciate your and remember with pride that you were a teacher "- quote from this post.

Under the motto "God love teacher," he based his entire speech of the Eng. Benor Voicescu. This is a romantic journey across the biography of Professor Covaci, remembering the events, characters and figures, gleaned from autobiographical work "A dream come true" written by professor at the age of 81 years. "There are people who put their final stamp to their personality on those who come in contact and whose success is confused with the glory of the nation watches and intellectual prestige of a nation" - said at the end of

his intervention Voicescu engineer, referring to "with love "the personality of Professor Ștefan Covaci.

Ph. D. Eng. Alexandru Tomuș , in his speech, expressed his gratitude to the professor Ștefan Covaci, who was a professor and doctoral supervisor and compare it "a self-diamond" grinding over 9 decades with much talent and hard work.

The former rector of the Mining Institute of Petroșani, during 1979 -1989, Prof. Ph. D. eng. Dumitru Fodor, in his speech, said about Prof. Ștefan Covaci: "It is a life that I lived with Professor Ștefan Covaci. The first impression about the Rector and Professor Ștefan Covaci was very strong. I was pleased and honoured to work with him. I had admired for his reliability, his hard work and his results. He was a master. He inspired and coordinated so many activities of team. Prof. Covaci wrote the first scientific literature of mining in Romania, signing first treated by mines. A supported effective work in international organizations, where he made known what it is happening in higher education and in Romania Mining activity inside the International Organizing Committee, whose membership is over 50 years, he has been successful since 1972, when he organized the VI-th World Mining Congress in Romania, which was attended by over 2,000 professionals from over 50 countries. I am proud that I grew up and worked with Professor Ștefan Covaci ".

Prof. Ph. D: Viorel Voin - prorector, expressed his admiration for the life and personality of Professor Ștefan Covaci. To exit the prosaic speech, just reread a poem dedicated with much love, "the first rector Ștefan Covaci," by engineer Cornel Burlec, at 50 years after graduating in 1960 and adapted promotion celebrating the new context of the teacher.

Head of Management, Environmental Engineering and Geology Department, Prof. Ph. D. eng. Maria Lazar, paying a homage to Professor Ștefan Covaci she noted that "... the name of Professor Ștefan Covaci is an emblem of what the Institute of Mining was and the University of Petroșani was, ...and former students remembered with love by Professor Ștefan Covaci ".

Prof. Ph. D. Ilie Rotunjanu, the former dean of the Mining Faculty during the period 1984-1990, among the others, in his speech said: "I make myself the messenger of this generation and I want to assure you of all the admiration of this generation that you appreciate and admire you You made the first treaties of mines. I am proud that you made us to be known in the country and abroad, who have fought the prestige and reputation of our school abroad". On this occasion, Professor

Rotunjanu asked professor Ștefan Covaci to write a message on the first treaty by mines, which will be donated to the University of Petroșani for the whole historical memory of this institution.

We selected from the intervention of prof. Ph. D. Eng. Nicolae Dima, the former rector of the University of Petroșani, during 2004-2008, the following: "As a student as I moved during the second year from Bucharest. The school was intended to represent the higher education at the country level. This was done under the distinguished leadership of Professor Ștefan Covaci. As a student, I had due regard to the rector of this institution. He was a great trainer of people, professional and educational aspect. Professor Ștefan Covaci behaviour had a profound impact on my generation especially, and other generations. "

At the end of these interventions, marked by a profound motion, spoke birthday, the distinguished professor Ștefan Covaci. He thanked everyone for their kind words expressed on this festive occasion, wishing them health, happiness and fulfilment of at least "90 springs". "For me, today is a special day because of your love and joy for meeting you again and many memories that bind us. On this occasion I am reminded of my teachers, my colleagues, my generation and my students. The figures of my teachers were printed in my heart. Thanks to them I made a series of objectives. This means that my life has not passed in vain".

Prof. Ph.D. Eugen Cozma, mining eng.,
Prof. Ph.D. eng Ilie Onica, mining eng.
(former assistants of Prof. Ștefan Covaci)



Prof. Ph.D. eng. D.H.C. Ștefan Covaci



Four rectors of University of Petroșani – from the left to the right:

*Prof. Ph. D. eng. Nicolae Dima,
Prof. Ph. D. eng. mat. Emil Pop,
Prof. Ph. D. eng. Ștefan Covaci,
Prof. Ph. D. eng. Dumitru Fodor*