



# Croatian Scholarship Fund

DEVELOPING LEADERS THROUGH EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2012

## 2Cellos Rock San Francisco Bay Area for Croatian Scholarship Fund

On October 14, 2012, more than 1,100 people from places as far away as New York and Canada packed into the historic Fox Theatre in Redwood City, California to witness the first Northern California appearance of the 2Cellos. Luka Sulic and Stjepan Hauser came to prominence after their YouTube video of Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal" went viral on the internet. Shortly after the 2Cellos were discovered, they had graciously agreed to headline a charity concert for the Croatian Scholarship Fund (CSF).



The magical evening opened with a private reception for the 2Cellos attended by concert sponsors and VIP ticket holders. Special guests at the reception included the Honorable Ilija Zelalic, Consul General of Croatia (Los Angeles), and two members of the Consul General's staff. The reception was hosted by the Croatian Scholarship Fund and supported by generous donations from the Croatian American Cultural Center of Sacramento as well as Mr. Bilic's Tarragon Restaurant of Sunnyvale.



*Maria Olujić, Branimir Šikić, Stjepan Hauser, Luka Šulić, Marijana Pavić and Rosemary Dixon*

Months of preparation and hard work went into the planning, promotion and execution of the concert. CSF had never promoted a concert before so it was a challenge to everyone to make sure it was a great event. Fortunately, the Croatian community from throughout California and beyond responded with support. In particular, CSF would like to thank the Croatian Catholic Mission Assumption of Mary in San Jose and the Croatian American Cultural Centers of San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles for their help.

CSF Treasurer Branko Barbir wishes to thank Zajednicar for its efforts in promoting the concert by publishing information several times during the months leading up to the concert. In addition CSF is thankful for the assistance provided by other Croatian publications including Croatian Chronicle and Crophoria.

The private reception of approximately 100 guests was buzzing as soon as Luka and Stjepan entered the reception to mingle with guests, take pictures and sign autographs for those in attendance. The dynamic Croatian duo were friendly and lingered with their fans for about half an hour before they had to return backstage to prepare for the concert.

Concertgoers were greeted by a huge theatre screen playing a continuous loop of pictures and information about famous people of Croatian heritage. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening, CSF Advisory Board member Gary "Ban" Allen warmed up the audience and presided over a short program thanking them for their continued support of CSF.



*Stjepan Hauser, Gary Allen, Chris Allen and Luka Šulić*

The CSF program thanked the underwriters of the concert who made it possible to bring the 2Cellos to Northern California. Those sponsors included Tony and Diane Ujdur, Jure and Michelle Sola, Bill and Sara Cumbelich, the Novogradac Foundation, Darko and Marina Sertic, Mrs. Rosemary Dixon and Sveto and Maria Olujic.

*Continued on page 3*

### CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

P.O. Box 290  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
www.croatianscholarship.org

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Marijana Pavić  
*President*

Nina Jurjević  
*Vice President*

Barbara Jagiello  
*Secretary*

Chip Kumparak  
*Treasurer*

Branko Barbir  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Marina Sertić  
*Member at Large*

Vesna Brekalo  
*Administrative Assistant*

#### ADVISORY BOARD

Gary Allen

Joseph Cindrich, Ph.D

William Cumbelich

Vera Duplančić

Željko Pavić

Alan Saračević

Darko Sertić

Tony Ujdur

Lidia Vidović



The Croatian Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization that seeks to develop leaders in Croatia and Bosnia i Hercegovina by providing university scholarship to outstanding young men and women.

Scholarship awards are selected based on academic excellence, financial need, leadership and geographic diversity.



Dear CSF Supporter,

I wish you and your family good health and a joyful Holiday Season. It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to extend CSF's sincere appreciation for your generous support.

This Newsletter provides you with insight on CSF's work, our students, former graduates and our sponsors. In March we held a very successful fundraising event sponsored by the Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento. The 2Cellos concert held in Redwood City was an event many of us will not forget. A huge thank you goes to Gary Allen for his vision and making the concert happen. The Board members also deserve recognition for their excellent work and for executing all the details. The importance of our sponsors, individuals who have helped CSF maintain its mission for 23 years, cannot be emphasized enough.

CSF depends on your generosity and welcomes your financial assistance in any way that you are able. Your support is vital and a major source of revenue for CSF. CSF is a nonprofit organization and your contributions are tax deductible.

If you are not already doing so, please consider donating in one of the following ways:

- **Become a Contributor** – Donate any amount
- **Become a Sponsor** – Provide a full scholarship of \$1,500/ year. Most sponsors commit to sponsor a student for four years. Sponsors have direct contact with their students, find it rewarding and often become life long friends. 100% of sponsor's donation goes directly to the student.
- **Endowment Fund** – Consider donating to our established Endowment Fund. Endowments may consist of gifts of money, stocks, real properties or other forms of monetary value. These can be in your or your family's name; the principal amount of the gift stays intact, only the interest is assigned to scholarships.

Thank you for supporting our effort to help educate financially needy Croatian university students. May you and your family have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. ■

~ Marijana Pavić, CSF President

“Čestit Vam Božić i Sretna Nova Godina!”





# CSF Scholarship R



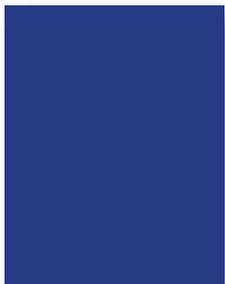
**Ivan Brkić**

Ivan is studying Civil Engineering in Mostar. He has been an excellent student throughout his school years and received high grades in all of his subjects. He lives with his parents and a younger brother. He has always been interested in building things and now has an opportunity to make his dream come true. He is very fluent in English and German languages and hopes to utilize them in the future.



**Marija Jurić**

Marija is studying Geodesy in Zagreb. She lives with her family of six members in Prozor. She has been an excellent student throughout her elementary and high-school years. Her dream is to speak English, German and Spanish fluently. Maria loves to sing and is a member of Prozor's church choir. In her spare time, she loves to read and write.



**Marko Galić**

Marko is studying Medicine in Mostar. He was born in Široki Brijeg and lives with his family of six members. His father was a soldier in the war and during that time, his mother took care of the whole family and relatives who were in need. Marko became very active in extracurricular activities, such as sports, karate, chess and helping people in need. Through his parish, he got involved with FRAMA and realized the rewards of helping other people.



**Mijat Jurišić**

Mijat is attending Management College in Slavonski Brod. He was born in Novi Grad and became a refugee when he was a young boy. He attended Kindergarten in Germany and had to learn the language fast before returning back to his home town. Even with all of his struggles, he maintained excellent grades and competed in numerous math and physics competitions. Mijat is fluent in English and German, loves to read and play volleyball.



**Marko Imbrišak**

Marko is studying Natural Science in Zagreb. He has been an outstanding student throughout his school years and received high grades. He participated in numerous Chemistry, Physics and Biology competitions and received the first place in regional Chemistry competition. He is fluent in English and German and his dream is to become a doctor of physics and to work for ETH Zurich.



**David Kordić**

David is studying Medicine in Split. He was a very good basketball player in high-school and led his team to the national playoffs a few years in a row. He even had some clubs that were interested in him but he decided to pursue education instead of basketball. He was the President of Student Council and represented his school in numerous Math and Ecology competitions with very good results.

# Recipients 2012-2013



## **Zrinka Lešić**

Zrinka is studying International Relations in Zagreb. She is a very ambitious and determined young woman who loves to speak various languages. She has studied about seven different languages throughout her elementary and high-schools years. She studied one year in the USA through an organization called ASSIST and had a very positive experience.



## **Ivan Risović**

Ivan is studying Natural Science in Zagreb. He comes from a family of eight members and Ivan being the oldest of six children. He has been a very good student and received high marks in all of his subjects. In his spare time, he plays a guitar and enjoys mountain cycling.



## **Viktorija Meštrović**

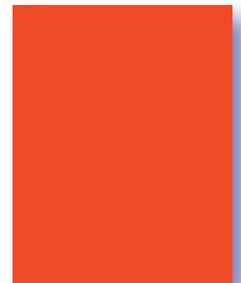
Viktorija is studying Chemistry in Split. She has three sisters and two of them are attending colleges in different cities. She played basketball in a premier league during her high-school years and was recognized as one of the best players on her team. Also, she sings in a church choir and her choir represented Tomislav Grad at the Mostar festival.



## **Marijana Savić**

Marijana is studying Economics in Zagreb. She is a very good student who received excellent grades throughout her school years.

Marijana always wanted to attend college and get a higher education, especially, since both of her siblings are attending colleges, which is creating a financial burden for her parents.



## **Monika Perutina**

Monika is studying Computer Science in Split. She comes from a family of six members and is an active member of her church. She sings and plays a guitar in the church choir and is a member of many youth groups. She participated in numerous local and regional math and physics competitions with very good results. Her desire is to become an expert in communication technology.



## **Darija Zeko**

Darija is studying Economics in Zagreb. She is a very determined young lady who had to deal with some major obstacles in her young life. Her parents divorced when she was a teenager and her mother had to take care of her and her two siblings. Darija is fluent in German and English and her dream is to become a doctor and help people who are struggling with Crohn's Disease.



# CSF Grief Loss of Bob Batinovich, a Major CSF Supporter

Robert "Bob" Batinovich of Hillsborough, California, an original supporter since the inception of the Croatian Scholarship Fund (CSF), passed away on September 11, 2012 while vacationing in Hawaii. The CSF grieves the loss of our dear friend who cared deeply about his Croatian heritage and the CSF program. Bob was born in 1936 and was raised in Long Beach, California before making his mark in the business world as a highly successful entrepreneur and in venture capital in the Bay Area. His business and political expertise was recognized by the Governor of California when he was appointed to serve in a leading capacity on a number of high level governmental boards over the years. Bob enjoyed a very successful and distinguished career.



While having enjoyed his family and his professional accomplishments, Bob never forgot his heritage and passion for Croatia. Bob was a first-generation Croatian. His father was born in southern Croatia and passed on to him the passion which he cherished all of his life. Of noteworthy importance, Bob became an early supporter of the scholarship program when CSF Founders, the late Bob Bronzan along with Tony Ujdur and Branko Barbir introduced the scholarship program to him in 1989. Bob became an immediate benefactor by supporting no less than three students each year. Bob visited Croatia each

year to enjoy the beauty and the aesthetics of Croatia and the Adriatic Sea. He would always spend time visiting the students in Croatia who he sponsored. In 1998, the CSF Board of Directors honored Bob as a Distinguished Croatian American at the CSF Annual Fund-raising Dinner at the Sofitel Hotel in Redwood City. Bill Cumbelich, Past President and long time CSF leader, knew Bob very well and stated that "Bob was a most caring Croatian American who cherished his Croatian heritage as well as the future of Croatia and the education of its young students."

President Marijana Pavic expressed the CSF Board of Directors condolences and the board's deep appreciation to the Batinovich family for his continued support that has enabled over 150 young students from Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina to earn a college education. Dr. Bozo Skoko, the first CSF student selected into the CSF program and now serving on the faculty of the University of Zagreb, expressed condolences on behalf of the many students to the Batinovich family. Bob will be deeply missed and his dedication of service to the CSF deeply appreciated. ■

~ By Dr. Joseph Cindrich, *CSF Advisory Board*  
September 2012

## CSF Board

As most of you know the Executive Board oversees day-to-day operation of the Croatian Scholarship Fund. There is also an Advisory Board that provides guidance and supervision to the Executive Board. The Executive Board Members are elected every two years and the Advisory Board members are appointed indefinitely.

For 23 years CSF has flourished as an organization and has helped hundreds of students in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina receive a college education. The success of this organization and all the accomplishments would not be possible without the individuals who serve on the two Boards. We have strong Bylaws and Policies & Procedures that guide

and mandate transparency and honesty. The Board has recently implemented a Five-Year Plan that guides our work and includes a plan for CSF expansion.

All Board members are volunteers and funds raised go directly to students, other than part time clerical, marketing and accounting expenses. Some Board members have been with us and have worked tirelessly for over 20 years. Individuals such as Branko Barbir, Nina Jurjevich, Tony Ujdur, Bill Cumbelich, Dr. Joe Cindrich and Gary Allen are the foundation of CSF. They set the high standard years ago, and I am proud to say that we are still upholding that standard.

*Continued on page 8*

## CSF Graduate, Ivan Ivec, one of the Smartest People In the World



Ivan Ivec 1994

The World Genius Directory, created by Dr. Jason Betts, compiles a list of the world's top minds using certified IQ tests. Current list names 16 people with highest IQ's in the world and two Croatians are on this list, Mislav Predavec from Zagreb and a

CSF graduate Ivan Ivec from Koprivnica. The average score on an IQ test is 100. Most people fall within the 85 to 114 range. A score over 160 is considered a genius; Mr. Predavec has an IQ of 192 and Mr. Ivec 169.

Ivan Ivec was in the CSF program from 1994 – 1998 and his sponsor was Mr. Andrew Viscovich. Ivan attended the University of Zagreb and his undergraduate degree was in Natural Science. In his early years he demonstrated talent for natural ability especially mathematics. Ivan participated in Mathematics Olympics in Hong Kong and received a Bronze Medal for Croatia. Mr. Ivec is currently enrolled in the PhD program at the University of Zagreb. He also works as a professor of mathematic and informatics at a the Gymnasium in Samobor.

Recently we asked one of our graduates, Dr. Bozo Skoko, who lives in Zagreb to contact Mr. Ivec and to ask what the Croatian Scholarship meant to him. He responded promptly to Bozo and this is what he said.

*"I was very surprised, but glad when I received the CSF scholarship. My parents have never been dealing with larger amounts of money. Your scholarship was exactly what I needed.*

*We live in the world with a lot of selfishness and only people like you raise our minds above that. You helped me in that field, not just financially.*

*Today, I'm married, I have two children, I work in secondary school, teaching mathematics, and I'm close to finishing my PhD studies".*

*Pozdrav, Ivan*

Ivan exemplifies the type of student CSF supports and we are proud to have played an instrumental role in his education. ■



~ By Marijana Pavic

## Letter From a Student



Poštovani članovi Hrvatske Školske Zaklade,

Bliži se kraj moje prve godine studija medicine te mislim da je sada prikladno vrijeme da Vam, kao jedna od stipendistica, tom prilikom opišem kako mi Vi pomažete od samoga početka studija da napredujem i ostvarujem dobre rezultate.

Nakon što sam u lipnju prošle godine upisala Medicinski fakultet Sveučilišta u Rijeci, bila sam jako sretna i ponosna na svoj uspjeh, jer sam puno učila i brinula se hoću li uspjeti upisati medicinu. Ubrzo nakon toga stiglo je na moju adresu i Vaše pismo u kojem ste mi javili još jednu prekrasnu vijest - odabrana sam kao jedna od stipendistica! Ne mogu Vam dovoljno dobro opisati koliko me to saznanje u trenutku čitanja pisma ohrabrilo i podiglo mi pozitivno razmišljanje već prije početka studiranja.

Međutim, svaki početak je na neki način težak, pa je tako i meni moj početak studiranja bio veliki šok. Morala sam se preseliti u novi grad daleko od kuće, ostati po prvi puta sama među nepoznatim ljudima i snaći se u novim situacijama. Vaša pomoć u obliku stipendije predstavljala je na tom početku ne samo veliku financijsku potporu već i psihičku potporu jer je skratila mojoj majci i meni mnoge brige. Kao što već znate, živim sa samohranom majkom koja ima puno zdravstvenih problema i zbog toga ne može raditi, pa prima invalidsku mirovinu koja je premala da bi podmirila sve naše troškove. Dugo smo bile zabrinute oko toga kako ćemo pronaći sav potreban novac za moje studiranje.

Vaša stipendija dala nam je sigurnost i obećanje da ćemo uspjeti sve organizirati i da ću moći neometano studirati uz sve što mi je potrebno. Kao prvo, znala sam da ću, zahvaljujući Vašoj stipendiji, na početku svakog mjeseca uvijek imati dovoljno novaca za plaćanje troškova smještaja i prehrane u studentskom domu. Također, za potrebe studiranja su mi bile potrebne mnoge prilično skupe knjige, atlasi, vježbenice i ostali radni pribor. Sve sam to uspjela kupiti na vrijeme zahvaljujući Vašoj donaciji i mogla sam od početka aktivno pratiti nastavu i kvalitetno učiti, što me učinilo ravnopravnom ostalim studentima.

Sada je ostalo još jako malo tjedana do kraja moje prve akademske godine i mogu Vam reći da sam se lijepo snašla u novoj sredini i na fakultetu. Da nije bilo Vaše stipendije, najvjerojatnije bih morala paralelno uz studiranje raditi da si podmirim sve troškove. Međutim, uz studij medicine to sigurno ne bih mogla izvesti jer svaku sekundu slobodnog vremena provodim učeći. Uvjerila sam se da zbilja nije lako studirati medicinu jer se od nas očekuje jako puno i treba biti marljiv, uporan i orga-

*Continued on page 8*

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**April 6, 2013  
Gala Dinner  
Fundraiser**

*At the Croatian American  
Cultural Center  
Sacramento, CA*

This December we are holding an Advisory Board meeting where we will be electing our next Executive Board officers. We are excited to see new members on the Board and look forward to their input. We also welcome any individual that may be interested in joining the CSF team. ■

-Marijana Pavic, CSF President



niziran. Zasad sam uspjela pratiti takav ritam te sam ostvarila odlične ili vrlo dobre rezultate. Nadam se da ću prvu godinu također završiti uredno i bez problema do listopada, a možda već i u srpnju. Naime, upravo se sada pripremam za zadnje završne ispite iz Anatomije i Kemije. Nadam se da ću sve položiti na vrijeme i time Vam dokazati da se Vaše ulaganje u mene i povjerenje koje ste mi iskazali isplatilo.

U svakom slučaju, još jednom Vam se moja majka i ja puno zahvaljujemo na svemu. Time što ste me odabrali za jednu od stipendistica, dali ste mi do znanja da se trud i kontinuirani rad u životu uvijek isplate, a Vi ste taj moj trud prepoznali i nagradili. Zahvaljujemo se i mojoj sponzorici, gospođi Kumparak, jer je njezina uloga u svemu također neizmjerljivo velika. Na kraju akademske godine poslat ću još jedno pismo da Vas izvijestim o tome kako sam položila godinu i što planiram za iduću godinu

Šaljem Vam svima srdačan pozdrav!  
~ Ema Ormanec

[www.croatianscholarship.org](http://www.croatianscholarship.org)



**Croatian Scholarship Fund  
FUNDRAISING DRIVE**

The CSF is a non-political non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For your convenience, CSF now accepts online donations at [www.croatianscholarship.org](http://www.croatianscholarship.org). **Please take a moment to fill out this response card.**

- CSF CONTRIBUTOR - Any Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CSF BENEFACTOR - 1 Full Scholarship: \$1,500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ADOPT-A-STUDENT/SPONSOR - 4-Year Scholarship: \$6,000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CSF ENDOWMENT FUND - Permanent Fund, Any Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Name of: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed      Credit Card:     VISA     MasterCard

Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND TO:**

**Croatian Scholarship Fund  
P.O. Box 290  
San Ramon, CA 94583**

For more information please call  
**Branko Barbir** at (925)-867-3768.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Donate online at [www.croatianscholarship.org](http://www.croatianscholarship.org). Thank you for your contribution to CSF!**