



MAY 2013

# Croatian Scholarship Fund

**DEVELOPING LEADERS THROUGH EDUCATION**

## CACC Host Successful Fundraising Event in Sacramento

On April 6th, the Croatian American Cultural Center (CACC) in Sacramento, CA, under the leadership of Milan Matošević and Mile Župan, hosted a very successful fundraising Gala Dinner event for the Croatian Scholarship Fund. This is the 14th year CACC has held such an event and all proceeds from the dinner provide scholarships to financially deserving Croatian university students living in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The CSF and the students are very grateful to CACC Board for their continued support!



*Tatijana Tajči*

We would also like to thank the guests who attended and supported this wonderful, worthwhile event. We had a record number of people in attendance and the funds raised also surpassed our expectations. The evening was filled with enjoyment of meeting old and new friends, excellent food, a great selection of wines and delicious desserts. The evening highlight was the performance by the talented and well-known Croatian singer Tatiana Tajči Cameron. We all knew that we were in for a treat when Tajci sang a capella the American and Croatian National Anthems.

The guests were first entertained by the Sidro Tamburica Group, while enjoying cocktails and delicious hors d'oeuvres. The Emcee for the evening, Gary Allen, did an eloquent job in

making everyone feel welcome and moved the evening program with grace and enthusiasm.

During a short program, CSF President Marijana Pavić paid special recognition to a large number of CSF sponsors and benefactors, and thanked the CSF Executive and Advisory Board members for their hard work. She also paid special tribute to Mr. Miljenko Grgich, a long time CSF supporter, by establishing an Endowment Fund with CSF. CACC President Mr. Milan Matošević spoke and remarked at how proud he is that CACC has helped so many deserving students in Croatia. Distinguished Consul General Mr. Ilija Želalić praised CSF for their continued humanitarian work. Dr. Branimir Šikić spoke about his research at Stanford University and the exciting project he initiated for the young Croatian scientists who are invited to Stanford University to do postdoctoral research

named the Croatian Visiting Scientists Fund. Dr. Šikić shared success stories of these scientists who, after completing their research at Stanford, are now teaching or conducting research at major

universities in the United States and Europe.

Prior to dinner, Father Drago led us in prayer. The silent and live auctions were both huge successes and have become annual attractions. Gary Allen and Tajči oversaw the four highly successful and enthusiastic live auction bids. This included

*Continued on page 6*





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

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*The Croatian Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization that provides university scholarships to students in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.*



It is with deep gratitude to each of you that I express our appreciation on behalf of our students, as well as the CSF Executive and Advisory Boards. We appreciate your continued support and without your help, we would not be able to reach our goal of providing scholarships to financially deserving Croatian students. I have learned long ago from my parents that those who are generous and who give of themselves receive much more in return. Your generosity makes a difference in our students' lives and we should feel

proud for what we have collectively achieved.

The Croatian Scholarship Board is excited to share with you information contained in this newsletter, especially activities and news about how our students are doing. We unselfishly continue our efforts to raise funds for student scholarships. Our Gala Dinner at the Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this wonderful event.

We also welcome three new members to our Board, Anamaria Brozović, Ph.D., Rosemary Dixon, and Maria Olujić, Ph.D. Their brief biographies are included in this newsletter.

On May 13th, CSF is holding our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament in Vallejo, California and I encourage all golfers to sign up for this event. Non-golfers are also invited and welcome to join us for dinner. You may find more information on the golf tournament at [www.croatianscholarship.org](http://www.croatianscholarship.org).

CSF is excited to announce that on Sunday, December 8th, we will be hosting a Tamburitza Concert in the Bay Area. Renowned conductor and composer, Siniša Leopold, will be performing with an acclaimed orchestra from Zagreb, the HRT Tamburitza Orchestra. We are currently working on the details of the event, so please stay tuned and check our web site or Facebook for further information.

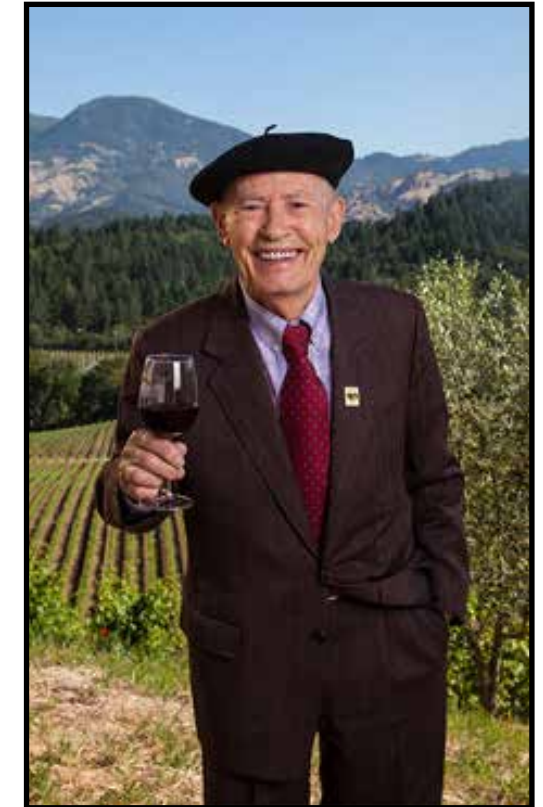
A sincere "thank you" to each of you, from our students and members of the CSF Board! ■

~ Marijana Pavić  
 CSF President

EDUCATING WORLD-CLASS WINEMAKERS IN CROATIA

The Croatian Scholarship Fund is proud to announce that Mr. Miljenko Grgich established an Endowment Fund with CSF. This fund will provide scholarships to university students in Croatia, majoring in viticulture and enology.

Mr. Grgich's goal is to help educate bright Croatian winemakers and to turn Croatia into a world-class haven for winemaking. This visionary goal shows Mr. Grgich's commitment for a better and prosperous Croatia. He was born in a small village of Desne, Croatia, on the Dalmatian Coast, and his father taught him how to make wine. He later attended the University of Zagreb, where he studied viticulture and enology and this prepared him for his endeavors in becoming a winemaker. He fled from former Yugoslavia in 1954, in search of freedom, and eventually settled in Napa Valley, California. While living in Napa, Mr. Grgich perfected his craft and became a world renowned winemaker. He has never forgotten his roots and since the end of the war in Croatia, Mr. Grgich has been in the forefront of influencing the Croatian winemaking industry. He has opened a winery on Peljesac Peninsula, Croatia, and has introduced the latest technology in winemaking.



Mike Grgich, Rutherford, Napa, California

Croatian Scholarship Fund, along with rest of the Croatian community, is extremely proud of Mr. Grgich's accomplishments. We are all touched to see Mr. Grgich use the Croatian Coat of Arms on the very first bottle of wine he produced in the United States and since then, has become his trademark.

Croatian Scholarship Fund is honored and would like to thank Mr. Grgich for his trust in establishing the Endowment Fund with CSF. His decision to invest in Croatian viticulture and enology studies and his goal for young Croatians to become world-class winemakers is exemplary. He is leaving a legacy that will be written in Croatian history and CSF is proud to be part of this vision and legacy.

On April 1st, Mr. Grgich celebrated his 90th Birthday and we wish Mr. Grgich a "Happy Birthday" with good health for years to come. We congratulate him on his many accomplishments! Živio! ■

CACC Hosts Successfull... Continued





## Rosemary Dixon, Executive Board Member

Rosemary Dixon, maiden name Basić, was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Her parents immigrated to Canada from Perušić, Lika, Croatia in 1928 and 1939.

At the age of six, Rosemary, her brother Edward, and her parents returned to then Yugoslavia in 1947 as so-called “povratnici.” “Povratnici” was a mass exodus of mostly Croatian immigrants from Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. These immigrants were returning “home,” in hope of rebuilding life on their native soil and to help rebuild the country after a devastating WWII.

Rosemary remembers “six ships that left Canada and my parents, like other returnees, sold their homes and took with them all of their belongings.” The family was placed in Osijek, but within six months her parents wanted to return to Canada. However, the new government denied their exit visas and it took them four years to clandestinely leave the country. The family once again fled communist Yugoslavia and returned to Canada and starting life as immigrants for the second time was not easy for the family. At age ten, Rosemary had to learn English again and she started the first grade.

In 1966, Rosemary married the late Dr. F. Gene Dixon, a prominent dentist in the Bay Area, who was a widower with four young children. Together, they had a daughter, Kathryn, currently living in London. Gene, the founder of Delta Dental Insurance, a visionary in the field of dentistry, believed that every person has a right to dental health.

Rosemary believes that “investing in young people through education is the best way to contribute.” Rosemary is a founding member of the Croatian Visiting Scientists Fund, Stanford School of Medicine, where young and brilliant Croatian scientists with graduate degrees are able to make a contribution in cutting edge cancer research. “The reason I joined CSF is because my roots and ties are still in Croatia.”



## Anamaria Brozović, Ph.D., CSF Advisory Board Member

Anamaria was born in Duga Resa, Croatia, where her entire family still resides. Upon completion of her bachelor and master degrees at the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, she was awarded the prestigious DAAD scholarship from the German Government. She spent two and a half years conducting research for her dissertation at the Institute for Toxicology, University of Mainz, Germany.

Currently, she is a research scientist at Rudjer Bošković Institute in Zagreb, Croatia. However, for the past two and a half years, Anamaria has been conducting cancer research under tutelage of Prof. Branimir I. Šikić, M.D. at the Oncology Department, Stanford School of Medicine, through the Croatian Visiting Scientists Fund.

Shortly upon her arrival at Stanford University, Anamaria had the opportunity to meet with several Croatian Americans, who introduced her to the work of CSF. “This introduction helped me to understand the importance of CSF. It also made me aware that CSF is not just a fund but a live organization comprised of passionate volunteers who, with hard work and dedication, help needy students in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Besides assisting Croatian students, they also help young professionals, like me, and they provide us with lots of love, advice, and emotional support.” Anamaria states that, “the reason I joined the Advisory Board of CSF is not only because I admire the work and idea of CSF but also because I want to return what was so generously given to me.”



## Maria Olujić, Ph.D., Executive Board Member

Maria Olujić was born in Imotski, Croatia, and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of twelve. Maria has a bachelor’s degree in Biology and a doctorate in Anthropology, both from U.C. Berkeley. While a graduate student at Berkeley, she received a Fulbright Award. In 1991, when the war was raging in Croatia, Maria was invited to work as the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology for the newly forming nation of Croatia. After leaving the government work, Maria taught Anthropology as a Visiting Professor at U.C. Berkeley and also “Semester at Sea Program.” She was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Award to conduct anthropological research on gendered violence, especially on war rapes in Croatia and Bosnia.

Maria joined CSF because her parents, Mate and Slava Buljan, have been long-time supporters of CSF. Maria specifically joined because she feels “that education is the most effective way to make a difference and also a way to contribute to society.” She remembers a time during the war when she, along with her colleagues in Croatia, had to decide whether to spend money on a tank, or develop the first computer network (CarNet at that time). They chose the network instead of a tank—not an easy decision during a war—and at that time, only the White House had a computer network and the Croatian President’s office was the second. “Without brilliant young minds, this would not have been possible to accomplish and that is the reason I support CSF because we are investing in the future.”



## Martina Brkljać

*Major: Natural Science*

*Sponsor: Croatian American Cultural Center, Sacramento*



## Lucija Parlas

*Major: Computer Science*

*Sponsor: Tatijana Grgich*



## Ines Rezo

*Major: psychology*

*Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Darko Sertić*



## Marija Hercerg

*Major: Medicine*

*Sponsor: Croatian Radio New York*



## Lucija Ostojić

*Major: Philosophy*

*Sponsor: Mario Vlahović Memorial Fund*



## Matej Tomašević

*Major: Dental Medicine*

*Sponsor: Mr. Stanko Barle*

## Student Correspondence

**Poštovani!**

Želim Vam se zahvaliti na ove četiri godine pomoći koja mi je neizmerno puno značila, da je to nemoguće riječima opisati. Hvala cijelom Croatian Scholarship Fund, dobrovoljcima čiji trud pomaže studentima da olakšaju financijske troškove tijekom studija. Posebno hvala Vama, mojim sponzorima, gospodinu i gospođi Jurjević na nesebičnoj pomoći tijekom ove četiri godine, koje je bilo mnogo lakše uspješno završiti upravo zbog Vas. Zbog Vaše pomoći moje brige o troškovima studija bile su umanjene. Bila sam počašćena kada sam primila stipendiju CSF-a. Sada pred sami kraj svog studija najveće Vam hvala na pomoći koja mi je služila kao motivator za veći trud i uspjeh. Želim Vam sve najbolje, i uspješan daljni rad sa studentima. ■

~ Lucija Ostojić

the Day on the Bay, a five day stay in a beautiful museum-like home in Imotski, a five day stay in a Zadar apartment, and a five day stay in a Dubrovnik apartment.

This was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all and our gratitude goes to CACC for hosting this successful event. Photos from the event are posted on our website: [www.croatian-scholarship.org](http://www.croatian-scholarship.org). CSF is looking forward to next year when we will be celebrating twenty five years of CFS's existence! ■



## Letter From A Student



*Hrvatski:*

Već treću godinu za redom, redovito u rujnu i travnju na moju kućnu adresu dolazi bijela CSF kuverta. Moja majka je u ta dva mjeseca više nego inače oprezna i češće provjerava poštanski sandučić. Kaže da se boji jer je CSF kuverta duža od sandučića, tako da uvijek malo viri iz njega. Možda zato što je pravljjen tako da se u njega stavljaju samo račun, promotivni letci, ali rijetko kada nešto što ima vrijednost, a posebno ne novčanu.

CSF stipendija znači za mene manje briga oko plaćanja stanarine, kupnje knjiga, putovanja na fakultet i odlazaka kući, ali pored toga svega znači i puno više. Pomisao na to da netko dalek, s drugoga kontinenta, tko te nikada nije vidio, a možda niti neće, tko ne zna kakva si osoba odvaja za tebe svoj novac, brine se za tvoj studij, želi da jednoga dana postaneš intelektualac i osoba na koju će biti ponosan. A to sve čini ne očekujući ikakvu korist. Taj osjećaj je veći od bilo kojeg novčanog iznosa. I ne može stati u nekoliko riječi kao što ni CSF kuverta ne stane u moj sandučić.

Hvala mojim donatorima Marijani i Željku Paviću. Čuvam sva njihova pisma jer su oni dokaz velikih ljudi na ovome malome svijetu.

*English version submitted by student:*

In the last three years in September and April the white CSF envelopes have come to my home address. In these months my mother is usually more careful and more often checks mailbox. She said that she is afraid because the CSF envelope is longer than our mailbox so it always jut out and maybe somebody could take it. Maybe because our mailbox is made only for bills and shopping flyers and isn't supposed for something that has value, especially not financial value.

CSF scholarship means to me less worries about paying the rent, buying books, travelling to college and returning home. Besides that financial side it means and so much more: The thought that someone far away, on another continent, who's never seen you, and maybe never will, who doesn't know your personality grants you his money, takes care of your studies, wants you to become intellectual. And, above all he does it all without expecting any benefit. This feeling is greater than any amount of money. It cannot just fit in a few words, as CSF envelope does not fit in my mailbox.

I am grateful to my donors Marijana and Zeljko Pavic. I keep all of their letters because they are proofs of the great people in this small world.

~ Kristina Malbasić

## Accepting Student Applications

During this time of the year, as we have done for the past 24 years, the Croatian Scholarship Fund is in the process of accepting applications from graduating high school students of Croatian descent, living in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. These students who are applying to various universities in Croatia and B & H must demonstrate proof of admission into one of the universities, before CSF officially processes their application.

The CSF application deadline is May 15th, at which time the CSF Selection Committee screens all applicants using a point system selection process. The Selection Committee then recommends selected scholarship recipients to the Executive Board for final approval. This year we will be accepting 17 students and the total number of students in the program will be 50.

CSF's goal is to reach out to all high schools in Croatia and B & H and recruit students who show academic superiority, and demonstrate financial need. Each applicant is asked to submit multiple documents including, but not limited to, official transcripts, a personal statement, unique accomplishments, family earnings, letters of recommendations, and proof of Croatian citizenship.

The screening process for scholarship recipients is rigorous and time consuming. We always have more applicants than we can accommodate and, therefore, we continue to look for additional student sponsors, so that we can aid more students.

The applicants accepted into the program demonstrate highest academic performance and financial need. These students will receive an annual scholarship of \$1,500 that is renewable for four years, making the total scholarship at \$6,000. CSF monitors their academic work and scholarship checks are issued twice a year, after each semester and after students' grades are evaluated. These procedures are conducted for every student in the program. CSF is fortunate to have Mrs. Vesna Brekalo, our student liaison, who does an exceptional job in monitoring, tracking, and corresponding with the students. ■

# Croatian Scholarship Fund

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

At Hiddenbrooke Golf Course  
Vallejo, CA

11:00 a.m. Registration  
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

Four Person Scramble format

Includes: Golf, cart, lunch,  
dinner, prizes, tee prizes, raffle,  
auctions & more!

Cost: \$150 to play  
Dinner only: \$30

Entry Deadline: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

More Info: Mitch Juricich: 650.610.0220  
or Ante Buljan: 650.888.4437



**You may make a donation even if you don't play golf!**



**Tee sponsorship of only \$200 will display your name at the tournament!**

**Make checks payable to:**

Croatian Scholarship Fund  
PO Box 290  
San Ramon, CA 94583

Tax ID # 68-0231056

**For credit card payment please visit:**  
[www.croatianscholarship.org](http://www.croatianscholarship.org)

**ALSO ANNOUNCING:**

**June 8 & 9, 2013**

**Croatian Extravaganza**

Featuring popular Canadian band *Plavi Dim* with *Dario Barišić and Tamburaši*

At the Croatian American Cultural Center, Sacramento

For more info, please visit [www.cacc.com](http://www.cacc.com)

**December 8, 2013**

**HRT Taburitza Orchestra Concert in the Bay Area**

Location to be determined.



# 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!**