



MAY 2014

Croatian Scholarship Fund



Celebrating 25 Years of Success

With more than two hundred people filling the Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento, California, the Croatian Scholarship Fund celebrated the much anticipated 25th anniversary of its founding. It was an evening to remember for everyone in attendance with guests arriving from several states.

The evening started off with a presentation displaying more than 600 pictures from the organization's quarter century history accompanied by the music of the popular Sidro Tamburica band during the cocktail hour.

The official program began with a rousing rendition of the American and Croatian national anthems performed live by the Croatian American band Zrinski. Master of Ceremony Gary Allen then introduced the first speaker of the evening, Ms. Mary Ann Pavić, President of Croatian Scholarship Fund, who welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support and generosity without which CSF would not be the huge success it is today. Ms. Pavić urged everyone to continue to make a difference in the lives of young men and women through CSF.

The next speaker of the evening was CACC's President Mike Špalj, who praised CSF and pledged that CACC would continue to build and strengthen the partnership the two organizations have fostered over the past fifteen years.

At this point, the Honorable Josip Buljević, Croatian Consul General from Los Angeles was introduced to the capacity crowd. The Consul General thanked CSF and CACC for inviting him

to this momentous event and he looked forward to spending more time with everyone.

Those gathered for the CSF celebration received their first surprise of the evening when a video tribute and donation appeal for CSF from movie and television star Goran Višnjić was played. Mr. Višnjić was planning on being a surprise guest at the CSF dinner, but filming of his new television series delayed his departure from Los Angeles. You can see a copy of this video on CSF's Facebook page.



The highlight of the evening was the appearance of Ms. Viktorija Meštrović, a CSF student sponsored by CACC, who made a trip from Croatia to attend. Ms. Meštrović was selected by the CSF board to represent all CSF students past, present and future at the 25th anniversary celebration. She captivated the audience with her touching speech about what CSF means to her, her family and to every student who has or will receive a CSF scholarship. She told the audience that words were not enough to express how she feels about CSF and her appreciation for her scholarship. She then proceeded to very pleasantly surprise everyone by performing a beautiful a cappella version of "Malo mi za Sriću Triba" by



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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 Herzegovina.



Celebrating 25 Years... continued from front page

Doris Dragović. It was hard to find a dry eye in the audience as she finished the last notes of her tribute to CSF, and she left the podium with a standing ovation.

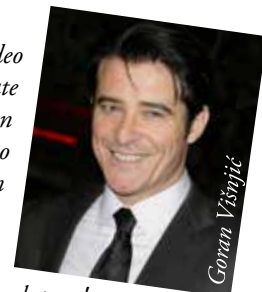
The formal program was followed by Fra. Dalibor blessing the meal and offering a heartfelt tribute to CSF. A delicious dinner followed featuring Croatian and American favorites prepared by the outstanding cooks and staff at the Croatian American Cultural Center.

A live auction was held after dinner, and many items were up for silent auction throughout the evening. Attendees enjoyed witnessing some spirited bidding during the live auction when a lunch for two with television and movie actor, Goran Višnjić, came up to bid. The evening progressed with an exciting performance by the KORACI Kolo Group from San Jose; and with that, the crowd danced the night away to the music of Zrinski from Los Angeles.

It was an evening to remember as people enjoyed reminiscing about the modest beginnings of CSF. They remembered meetings being held at kitchen tables and wondering how all the work could get done. Started from scratch by a few, it is now a labor of love for many. While the size and scope of CSF has changed, it remains humble and committed to its mission... finding ways to support more and more young Croatian men and women to help them on their way to achieving their dreams. There is much to celebrate after 25 years of hard work, but there is more work to be done. The good news is CSF, its officers, board members, benefactors and donors are ready for the challenge. Thanks to all for the wonderful work that has been done and will continue to be done. ■

Actor Goran Višnjić recorded a video honoring CSF and offered a private luncheon for two with him in L.A.

See it on our Facebook page!



*Powerful Messages
In Unforgettable Landscapes*

*That ship of a homeland far away,
which was left once in total darkness,
will sail, seas of centuries,
if given guidance, the knowledge
and compass of leadership.*

*That message
is our commitment to return to those
ancient Croatian shores,
to graft the love,
left in crevices of stones,
to be lifted and shaped,
by new and young generation,
in joint effort of the heart,
through dedication, will and persistence.*

*That dream,
the realization of powerful desire,
to lead the homeland,
to peaks and limits,
beyond human imagination,
will become fertile fields,
which shall be complemented
on the threshold of new millenium,
through application of science,
freedom and democracy,
the world at large will benefit from,
through the Grace of God.*

~ Ivan Mirošević





Not only was the CSF student who was selected to attend the anniversary dinner charming, talented, and intelligent but she also sings. **VIKTORIJA MEŠTROVIĆ** born in

Tomislavgrad, Herzegovina, delighted the CSF Dinner audience with her speech reminding us that she and other students like her would not have been able to continue their education without the help of CSF. She is presently studying food science and nutrition at the University of Split—School of Chemistry. She thanked us all, for herself and the other students, reminding us not to forget our roots. “We are all one body and need to help each other.” She concluded her inspiring words with a song, “Malo Mi Za Sricu Triba”, bringing the audience to its feet.

Viktorija is a second year student and while an outstanding student, she is an equally formidable athlete, having played basketball professionally until the demands of her studies took precedence. CSF could not have selected a better representative of its many students in Croatia. After the event, she commented on the strong feelings CSF had for its students and wished that other students could know of that deep sentiment.

CSF Board members have taken turns showing Viktorija points of interests. At last word, she was on her way to an NBA game. Viktorija is sponsored by the Croatian American Cultural Center. ■



A Donor Explains His Support for CSF

Education is the main driver of a country's future. Whether you feel you would like to give something back to the country that educated you or your ancestors, or you would simply like to help Croatia in general, your aid will be the most effective if you invest in the education of hard-working and talented young people.

Here on the East Coast, where I have been living for over two decades, there was an attempt to build a similar Croatian scholarship support organization, but it soon faded away and died. It takes a lot of dedication and effort to select the students, receive scholarships, advertise and administer them in Croatia, fulfill administrative obligations here, and effectively raise funds, while keeping the costs to a minimum.

The enthusiastic and hard working people running the Croatian Scholarship Fund have been doing all of this for many years.

For me, contributing to CSF is the ideal, most effective and fulfilling way of supporting the future of Croatia. In my case, I am partially repaying for the world class education I received there many years ago. ■

- S.B., New York

*Pictured are some highlights of
Viktorija's visit in California*

2014 Graduates

And Their Sponsors



Katarina Baliija

Major: Law

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Ujdur



Matej Bošnjak

Major: Computer Science

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Ujdur



Mirko Herceg

Major: Architecture

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bubalo



Anto Jurišić

Major: Marine Engineering

Mr. & Mrs. Jure Šola



Kristina Malbašić

Major: Cultural Studies/Media

Mr. & Mrs. Željko Pavić



Martina Marković

Major: Philosophy

Mr. & Mrs. Željko Urban



Lucija Pavlinec

Major: Economics

The Cumbelich Family



Dragica Pejazić

Major: Croatian Language

Mr. & Mrs. John Vidovich



Dominik Puljić

Major: Computer Science

Mr. & Mrs. Zlatko Vasilj



Matej Tomašević

Major: Dentistry

Mr. & Mrs. Stanko Barle



Tony Ujdur, Frane Franičević, Branko Barbir

CSF Recognizes Wine Donors

As part of its yearlong 25th Anniversary Celebration, the Croatian Scholarship Fund is recognizing many of its long-time and valued supporters. In particular, a group of wineries over the years have generously donated their wines for CSF events and auctions. Throughout the year, to honor the generosity of these wineries and their owners, the CSF board and officers are making visits to personally thank them and to bestow on them a beautiful plaque of recognition.

On February 10, 2014 our CSF founders, Mr. Branko Barbir and Mr. Tony Ujdur, visited Sunce Vinery to present the plaque and to thank the winemaker and owner Mr. Frane Franicevic for his many years of generous support. This beautiful winery is located in Santa Rosa California in the heart of Russian River Valley where Sunce wine has garnered many prestigious awards.

On Friday, March 14, 2014, several CSF officers and board members visited the beautiful facilities of Opolo Vineyards in Paso Robles, California to recognize the winery and its owners for their generous support and contributions to CSF over the years. Two partners, Mr. Rick Quinn and Mr. Dave Nichols, own the Opolo Vineyards.



Rick Quinn, Rosemary Dixon, Marijana Pavić, Nina Jurjević and Dave Nichols



Fra. Dalibor

A Tribute from Fra. Dalibor

CSF je uistinu na ponos Hrvatima a isto tako i Vašim prijateljima strancima. Budući da je CSF jako vrijedan zbog svojega dosadašnjeg plemenitog djelovanja ljubomorno ga čuvajte umijećem, znanjem i ljubavlju i za buduće generacije

iseljene i domovinske Hrvatske. Dao dobri Bog da i Vaša djeca nastave Vaše plemenito djelo koje je vrijedno svake hvale.

Vi mladima pružate jednu školu života u kojoj je davanje blagoslov i radost a takvu školu je uistinu vrijedno pohađati a njene učinke, poput subotnje svečanosti, slaviti.

Još jednom Hvala Vam! .

- Fra. Dalibor, San Jose, CA

Our Deep Condolences

The Croatian Scholarship Fund Board wishes to extend our sincere condolences to Mr. Zlatko Vasilj for the loss of his dear wife Candis and loving son Marko. The Vasilj family has been a great CSF supporter for many years. Marko enthusiastically worked with his father on their annual golf tournament to benefit CSF.

To honor Candis and Marko's memory, the Vasilj family selected CSF for donations in lieu of flowers.

CSF is grateful and touched by this wonderful gesture.

CSF has established a four-year scholarship in memory of Marko Vasilj.



Dario Martić

STUDENT CORRESPONDENCE

Što za mene znači Vaša stipendija.

Vaša stipendija za mene u prvom redu znači ne samo novčanu, nego i moralnu podršku. Uistinu, lijepo je znati da postoje ljudi koji su spremni odvojiti dio sebe kako bih ja mogao učiti ono što volim. Ako tome još dodam da od mene nemate nikakve koristi niti imate svojih interesa, onda sam veoma radostan. Radostan jer sam svjestan da postoje ljudi koji me vole bez interesa. Zsigurno da će takav vid dobrote ostaviti neizbrisiv pečat u mom životu.

Vaša stipendija naravno ima utjecaj i na moje financijsko stanje. Svaki dan kada jedem, kada učim, kada putujem busom, svjestan sam kako mi je CSF to omogućio. Mogu reći da mi CSF dođe kao treći "roditelj".

Osim toga što ste mi omogućili upis na fakultet, s time Vi mi pomažete i ostvariti "moj san". Osobito je zanimljiv i sam način na koji sam došao do Vaše stipendije. Bilo je to veoma čudesno putovanje, a kad sam dobio stipendiju, onda se to uistinu pretvorilo u čudo. ■■

~ Dario Martić

P.S. Želim Vam SRETAN ROĐENDAN!!! Čestitam Vam na 25. godina postojanja!!!

Bog Vas blagoslovio i podržao kako biste i dalje svijetu pokazivali što znači nesebična ljubav.



Croatian Scholarship Fund

3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Where: Crystal Springs Golf Course, Burlingame, CA

When: Thursday June 5th, 2014

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

Who: First 72 players to sign up!

Format: Four person scramble

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

Cost: \$150

Entry Deadline: May 23rd. 2014

Information: Tournament Director: Mitch Juricich: 650.610.0220 & Ante Buljan: 650.888.4437



Please 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

CSF will Celebrate 25th Anniversary in Zagreb



On September 26th, 2014 CSF will be celebrating 25th Anniversary in Zagreb, Croatia. We just received confirmation from Mayor Bandić that the City of Zagreb is donating the use of Kazalište Komedija where the concert will be held. This is a great honor for CSF. The HRT Tamburiza Orchestra directed by Mr. Siniša Leopold will be performing and accompanied by known singers. CSF is fortunate to have Dr. Božo Skoko and Mr. Siniša Leopold taking the lead in organizing this event. If you are in Croatia during this time, please help us spread the word and plan to attend the concert.

For further information please check CSF's web site at www.croatianscholarship.org



Join us in 
ZAGREB

For CSF's 25th Year Celebration at Kazalište Komedija

September 26, 2014



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 info@adriatictours.com
 310-548-1446

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 www.hotel-dubrovnik.hr
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FUND A DREAM

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. **Please take a moment to fill out this response card.**

- CSF CONTRIBUTOR - Any Amount \$ _____
- BENEFACTOR - 1 Full Scholarship: \$2,000 \$ _____
- ADOPT-A-STUDENT/SPONSOR - 3 Year Scholarship: \$6,000 \$ _____
- CSF ENDOWMENT FUND - Permanent Fund: Any Amount \$ _____

Installment Options: Monthly Bi-annually Annually

In Memory of: _____

Check enclosed Credit Card : VISA MasterCard

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PLEASE SEND TO:

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 PO Box 290, San Ramon, CA 94583

**For more information please call:
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Donate online at www.croatianscholarship.org • Thank you for your contribution to CSF!