



## **CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2014**

### **ABOUT US**

The Croatian Scholarship Fund, (CSF) established in 1989 as a 501-C (3) non-profit organization, enjoyed another successful year of fundraising to meet its annual goal of providing financial scholarship assistance to bright and financially deserving Croatian students attending universities in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. This year CSF celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a momentous occasion for everyone involved. Croatian Scholarship Fund is grateful to our supporters, and especially our sponsors, for helping make a difference in so many of our Croatian students' lives. Together let's continue to support them for the next 25 and beyond!

The CSF is the only Croatian organization in the United States providing four-year scholarship assistance to Croatian university students living in Croatia and Bosnia and Hercegovina. The White House along with Members of the United States Congress, Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina has paid special recognition for CSF's outstanding humanitarian and scholarly efforts.

### **OUR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES**

Over the years CSF graduates have earned college degrees from various universities in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. To date, over 200 students have received college degrees in academic disciplines, including medicine, economics, electrical engineering, physics, natural science, law, philosophy, maritime engineering, pharmacy, political science, and other professions.

CSF selects students into the program using rigorous selective criteria established by the CSF Executive Board. We monitor student's academic progress very closely. Prior to receiving funds each student must submit a transcript showing successful academic progress and funds are distributed to students in two installments per year.

Several years ago Croatia changed to Bologna Education System to comply with the European Union higher education guidelines. Under this system, students spend three years doing their undergraduate or Bachelor level work and two additional years on their Master degree. This year CSF has finally adjusted to this system and we are now funding scholarships to students for the duration of their studies, which could be up to five years if a student is in the Master degree program. Also, effective 2014, the monetary value of a scholarship for the new students selected into the program for this year and consecutive years will increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year. CSF continues to expand its fundraising efforts so that the number of potential scholarships can be increased. Often students are turned away due to limited funding.

The CSF is pleased to report the student status for 2014

- 
- Total number of students graduated: 10
- Total number of students accepted into the program: 21
- Total number of students in the program: 67
- Total number of graduates: 169

The CSF/Grgich Endowment Fund for Viticulture and Enology students at the University of Zagreb

- Total number of scholarships: 3
- Total numbers of Internships funded: 3

### **OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND EVENTS:**

Major source of revenue for CSF comes from special fundraising events and generous donations from individuals, organizations and businesses located in California and across the United States. Fundraising is a challenge and CSF continues to look for creative ways to raise funds in order to meet CSF mission and provide scholarships to as many deserving students as possible. The CSF Executive and Advisory Boards are all volunteers and committed to this Mission.

The following events and fundraising efforts were conducted this year:

1. To highlight the 25th Anniversary celebrations a number of CSF's Executive and Advisory Board members visited California wineries, Grgich Hills, Opolo, Rutherford Ranch, and Sunce, and personally express their gratitude and appreciation for their continued support. Each winery was presented a recognition plaque for donating their wines during our annual fundraising events over the past 25 years.
2. In April we held a special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Event at the Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento. Over two hundred people attended the event and many traveled long distances to help us celebrate this momentous occasion. One of CSF's current students, Viktorija Mestrovic, came from Split, Croatia. She captivated the audience with her touching speech about what CSF means to her and her family as well as every other student who has or will receive a CSF scholarship. The guests were also treated with a big surprise by a video tribute from a Croatian American actor, Goran Višnjić, who made a heart-felt appeal for CSF donations to support talented and needy students in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The evening was a huge success and CSF is grateful to the Croatian American Cultural Center for hosting this very successful event.
3. In June, our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament was held at the Crystal Spring Golf Course on the Peninsula. Over 75 players attended, including celebrity sports stars baseball legend Vida Blue and basketball star Jim Barnett. The event was a great fundraiser for CSF and a huge thank you goes to Ante Buljan, Branko Barbir, Alan Saračević and Gary Allen for organizing the event.
4. In August, Mr. Zlatko Vasilj, Big Joe, once again held a successful golf tournament at the Sunset Whitney Golf Club in Roseville, California. This year the tournament was held in memory of Zlatko's wife Candice and his son Marko, it was a touching event for all that participated. As in previous years, Mr. Vasilj donated \$10,000 from the golf proceeds for CSF scholarships. CSF and our students are grateful to all who participated and supported the golf tournaments
5. In late September, our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations fittingly concluded with a first-time CSF event in Zagreb, Croatia. The event was held at the Kazaliste Komedija. The Board members who attended the event were excited to meet the former and current students and were touched to hear their appreciation and how much the scholarship changed their lives.

CSF is grateful to Professor Božo Skoko and CSF Croatia Grup for coordinating the event. We are also grateful to the City of Zagreb and its Mayor, Mr. Milan Bandić, for providing the concert venue free of charge. We are indebted to HRT, Croatian Radio and Television, for and their talented Tamburica Orchestra for performing free of charge. Mr. Siniša Leopold, the conductor and a renowned musician of the HRT Orchestra selected top-notch singers for the evening. It truly was a professional event and will be memorable for years to come.

CSF sincerely appreciates the generosity of concert sponsors: Millenium Promocija, Dental Centar b2, and Školska Knjiga.

### **CSF BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Executive and Advisory Board for the year 2014 pursued the following activities:

- In January Executive and Advisory Board held a retreat and made a decision to adjust to the new Bologna system.
- Also, the board approved to increase the monetary value of a scholarship for the new students starting with students accepted into the program in 2014 and subsequent years. Each scholarship amount will increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year.
- Updated CSF's By-Laws, Policies and Procedures.
- Approved to continue implementation of the 5-year Master Plan.
- Continue to update public information and marketing materials designed to help promote the CSF mission.
- Created a Fundraising Plan to be implemented in 2015.
- Updated the CSF website.
- Board is also working on a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Book which includes our story on how the organization was started and the people involved who made the organization successful for the past 25 years. The book should be completed and available to everyone by the end of the year.
- Continue to work with early graduates, Dr. Božo Skoko (currently professor at Zagreb University) and other CSF graduates in Croatia to help mentor and coordinate the CSF program in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- Continue to closely coordinate with the Office of the Croatian Ministry of Education who assist the CSF in helping to select young bright Croatian students to pursue their dream.
- Implemented Grgich Scholarship Guidelines and Procedures with the University of Zagreb Viticulture and Enology Department.

The Executive and Advisory Board officers for 2014 – 2016 (*Election to be held at December Advisory Board Meeting*)

#### **2014 Boards**

##### Executive Board

Marijana Pavic ----- President  
Nina Jurjevic ----- Vice- President  
Barbara Jagiello----- Secretary  
Branko Barbir----- Co-Treasurer  
Chip Kumparak----- Co-Treasurer  
Maria Olujic Ph.D.----- Member- At- Large  
Rosemary Dixon----- Member- At- Large

##### Advisory Board:

Gary Allen	
Joseph Cindrich, Ph.D	Matt Darko Sertić
William Cumbelich	Anthony Ujdur
Vera Duplančić	Marina Sertić
Zeljko Pavić	Anamaria Brozović, Ph.D.
Alan Saračević	

Student Liaison  
Vesna Brekalo

Administrative Support  
Slavica Skračić

The CSF leadership expresses its sincere thanks to all the sponsors, benefactors, contributors, and volunteers.

For more information, please contact the CSF office, PO Box 290 San Ramon, CA 94583

Call - (925) 556-6263

Email - [csfinformation@gmail.com](mailto:csfinformation@gmail.com)

The CSF invites you to visit our website and view our new video at [www.croatianscholarship.org](http://www.croatianscholarship.org)

Marijana Pavić, CSF President