



# Croatian Scholarship Fund

DEVELOPING LEADERS THROUGH EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2016

## *CACC Hosts Another Successful Annual Fundraising Event!*

In April CSF held its annual fundraising event hosted by the Croatian American Cultural Center (CACC) in Sacramento, California. The event attracted over 250 people, the largest number to attend the annual gala event in 26 years. We also raised a largest amount of funds to date, which is helping to make dreams come true for many young Croatian university students living in Croatia and BiH.

Mr. Gary Allen, as usual, was an excellent Master of Ceremony. The CACC President, Mr. Milan Matosevich, welcomed the guests and stated that CACC is proud to be involved in helping young Croatian university students achieve a college education. Croatian Consul General from Los Angeles, Dr. Siniša Grgić, was present and spoke kind words and praised CSF for its humanitarian work. President Marijana Pavić thanked and acknowledged many of the guests and supporters including student sponsor, contributors, committee members and volunteers. She also recognized attending Croatian luminaries including Intel CEO Mr. Brian Krzanich along with his mother Pat and father Roy who are great CSF supporters. Many Croatian Community leaders were recognized including Dr. Marko Bodor, Mr. Bill Cumbelich, Mr. Darko Sertić, Mr. Neno Duplančić and others. Special appreciation was also expressed to CACC for its many years of continued support.

Sidro Tamburiza Group played traditional Croatian music before the dinner. Guests enjoyed performances of two Kolo Groups, Koraci from San Jose and Sacramento's own Skalinada. Petra Tolić accompanied by Mario and Boris provided the evening entertainment. The guests enjoyed a wonderful spread of appetizers including black risotto and octopus salad, delicious dinner and deserts, great selection of wines and open bar.



Thank you to all who came and made our 17th Annual Gala Dinner such a success. CSF and the students want to thank the Croatian American Cultural Center for hosting this wonderful event. ■

*Gala Dinner gallery continued on back page*

## *CSF Building Leaders for 21st Century*

For over 25 yrs, CSF has been supporting the higher education of students in Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. To date over 300 students have received this support with excellent results. Currently there are 66 students in this program and this year alone we accepted 17 new students. There is a lot to be proud of and we hope to continue and expand this worthy organization.

This year Croatia celebrated their 25th anniversary of being the independent nation; it is the latest member of European Union and NATO Alliance joining other Central European nations liberated from Communism after the historical falling of the Berlin Wall. However, Croatia paid a very high price to gain their freedom winning in a bloody war fought 1991 to 1995. The strategic direction of Defending, Liberating, Rebuilding and Integrating the country was achieved in the last decade of 20th century. The new Millennium, 21st Century brings new challenges, which require new Strategy and new Leaders. This indeed is an Old European nation and Young democracy in need of new capable leaders in all disciplines.

In order to maximize the benefits of continuing support of these young students, CSF needs to emphasize the development of strong leadership in various aspects; Geopolitical, Scientific, Spiritual, Economic and Cultural. In today's global dangerous and competitive world, it requires further educational excellence strategically directed at solidifying the freedom and economic prosperity. These young leaders can play a very important role in the direction Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina will take.

We are committed to this worthy cause and need the support of all Croatian Diaspora to widen our program.

By Zora R. Ljoljić,  
CSF Advisory Board Member



## 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 & Herzegovina.*

## President's Letter



Dear CSF Supporter,

As CSF enters 28th year of providing financial assistance to Croatian students attending universities in Croatia and

Bosnia & Herzegovina, it is important to recognize that we have been able to accomplish this through the generosity of many individuals, organizations and supporters. The success of this organization can also be attributed to the dedicated, all volunteer, Board members who give selflessly of their time to help make CSF a transparent and well run organization.

Thank you to our sponsors, benefactors, donors, and all who have supported us in many ways, especially by attending our Sacramento Fundraising events and the Bay Area Golf Tournaments. CSF funding comes from these fundraising efforts, general donations and generous sponsors. Our sponsors provide full scholarships of \$2,000 per year for their assigned student(s); many of these sponsors have done this for years. They are truly making a difference in their students' lives. Included in this newsletter are sample heart-warming letters from our students to their sponsors, expressing their appreciation and gratitude. 100% of sponsor donations go directly to students.

We had a successful year and are proud to announce that 66 students are currently receiving scholarships from CSF. Please consider supporting us in any way that you are able. Your support will allow us to continue with our mission of providing assistance to these young financially deserving students, who one day will become leaders and contribute to Croatian society.

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. ❖

Marijana Pavić, CSF President

## Big Joe's Scramble Golf Tournament



Zlatko Vasilj (Big Joe)

On Friday October 21st, 2016, Mr. Zlatko Vasilj held yet another successful Golf Tournament at the Morgan Creek Golf Club in Roseville, CA. Over 100 players came to join the fun with everyone enjoying the dinner, music

and dancing that followed. The theme for the event was Oktoberfest and all enjoyed the accordion music played by a local Croatian Mr. Miro Turkovic.

All proceeds from the event were donated to Croatian Scholarship Fund. These funds provide scholarships to a number of students Mr. Vasilj sponsors including an established Memorial Fund in memory of his son Marko Vasilj. The students and CSF are grateful to Mr. Vasilj for his overwhelming generosity. Thank you Joe for your big heart, you are truly making a difference in these students lives. ❖

## Branko and Ana Barbir Meet with Graduates and Current Students

During our visit in Croatia and Herzegovina this summer, we had an opportunity to visit Dr. Božo Skoko and his wonderful family at his lovely home in Klobuk,



Branko and Ana (left) pictured with Božo Skoko (right) with his wife and two children

Herzegovina. We enjoyed our visit and greatly appreciate their warm hospitality.

Dr. Skoko was one of the early students in the CSF program and we are all proud of his accomplishments. He is currently a professor and a head of the Department of



Branko and Ana with David Kordić in Međugorje

Strategic Communication at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, and one of the leading Croatian experts of identity and image of states. Dr. Skoko has published numerous books including a newly released book "Kakvi su Hrvati". This book is a collection of essays dedicated to Croatian identity and image.

We also took time to meet with two students that are currently in the CSF program. David Kordić a fourth year medical student in Mostar and a newly selected student Marija Brbor majoring in Health Sciences in Mostar.

We meet with David and his Mother in Međugorje, the warm welcome and appreciation expressed to CSF was unbelievable. They are truly beautiful people. David Kordić is a very talented student. He helped CSF set up the scholarship payments through PayPal. David is also a web designer who has helped his sponsor, Dr. Marko Bodor, with his business web site in Napa, California.

Our meeting with Marija was also heartwarming. She came with her twin sister to meet with Ana and me in Ljubuški. Marija is an extremely bright girl in great financial need. Her father is a Croatian war veteran who has lost his leg in the Homeland war. The CSF has made a great choice in selecting Marija for the scholarship program.

We will never forget this trip and the meeting with our students. One needs to experience these moments to truly appreciate it. ■



Ana and Branko with student Marija Brbor and her twin sister (center).

### Dr. Joe Cindrich Reconnects With CSF Graduates in Zagreb

Dr. Cindrich traveled to Croatia in May and June where he met with a dozen of CSF graduates who were students in the program in 2006. The students have gone on to excel as professional leaders and have become scholars in highly professional positions.

Professor Dr. Božo Skoko, original CSF student in the early '90's arranged the meeting for the former CSF students to share their accomplishments and appreciation to Dr. Cindrich for his many years of support to the CSF

in helping young Croatians to earn a college education. Also attending the meeting was Dr. Anamaria Brozović, CSF Advisory Committee member while doing post-graduate work at Stanford University. After returning to Croatia she resumed her prior duties in cancer research.

**Benefaction NO LIMITS Because of American Croats, 300 young people live the life they have dreamed**



Joe and Anamaria Brozović



Dr. Joseph Cindrich gives a talk to high school students who's teacher is one of our CSF graduates.

Dr. Cindrich along with Drs. Skoko and Brozović were joined by a number of CSF graduates and other undergraduate students currently enrolled in the CSF program. ■

Joseph Cindrich, Ph.D.  
CSF Executive Board

## 2016 Newly Selected Students

CSF is pleased to announce that we were able to accept Seventeen new students into the program for this academic year. We had twelve students graduate and currently there are a total of sixty six students in the program. This is a record number and it is all due to the generosity of our sponsors.

In June of this year, due to the number of sponsors available, the Board initially accept fourteen new students. There were over 200 applications submitted electronically and the selection committee had a difficult task of selecting 14 students from this pool with several students being placed on the alternate list. The committee uses a point rating system, and the selection process was a rigorous one which took the committee a long time to individually screen each applicant. The criteria used for selecting students include; academic standing, demonstrated financial need, family size, academic competitions, volunteerism and community activities, hardships and overcoming adversities. From the students selected, all passed with "odlično" (grade 5) for each year of their high school academic work. Basically they are straight A students. Many had competed in local and national competitions and are active in their church as well as their local community. The financial need for these students and their families was overwhelming. In early July the students were notified of their acceptance or rejection and we wish we did not have to turn away so many qualified applicants.

However in August, CSF was delighted to hear from a new sponsor stating that he would like to sponsor three students. With this additional sponsor we were able to accept three more students from the alternate list making it a total of 17 new students. They are all delighted and grateful to be in the program.

CSF and the students are truly grateful to each and every one of our sponsors. Without their support, most of these students would not be able to continue with their education. ■

### Mr. Miljenko Grgich Endowment Fund



We are please to announce that again this year the CSF-Miljenko Grgich Endowment Fund provided internship to three students enrolled in the Master's Degree program majoring in Viticulture and Enology at the University of Zagreb College of Agriculture. During wine harvest and early stages of wine production season, they spent three months working at the Napa Valley wineries. We hope that the knowledge they gained during internship will enhance their professional careers and contribute to Croatian wine making industry.

Two scholarships will also be given to first year Viticulture and Enology students at the University of Zagreb. CSF is currently



**Ana Andačić**

University of Zagreb  
Mechanical Engineering  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Želko  
and Marijana Pavić



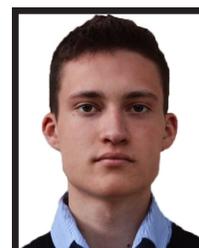
**Marija Brbor**

University of Mostar  
Health Sciences  
Sponsor: Mrs. Liz Buljan



**Erika Cindrić**

University of Zagreb  
Education  
Sponsor: Eat, Pray, Move  
Holidays & Retreats



**Dominik Čubelić**

University of Zagreb  
Computer Science  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Ivo  
and Jasna Kusalo



**Tamara Čurić**

University of Zagreb  
Mechanical Engineering  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko  
and Nicole Barle

accepting applications and selection of students for the two scholarships will be announced by end of the year.

This program is fulfilling Mr. Grgich's dream of helping his homeland and hopefully make Croatia world-class wine producer! ■

# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Ana Herceg**  
*University of Osijek  
Nutrition  
Sponsor: Ms. Tatjana Grgić*



**Luka Markičević**  
*University of Zagreb  
Mechanical Engineering  
Sponsor: Mr. Željko Urban*



**Stjepan Horvat**  
*Musica Academy, Pula  
Music  
Sponsor: Ms. Barbara Jagiello*



**Marijan Mikolić**  
*University of Sarajevo  
Theology  
Sponsor: CACC Sacramento*



**Anton Jaković**  
*University of Rijeka  
Medicine  
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić*



**Gabrijela Perkov**  
*University of Zagreb  
Mechanical Engineering  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko  
and Nicole Barle*



**Tomislav Jaković**  
*University of Osijek  
Civil Engineering  
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić*



**Ana Perkušić**  
*University of Zagreb  
Pharmacy  
Sponsor: Drs. Stanislav & Mirna  
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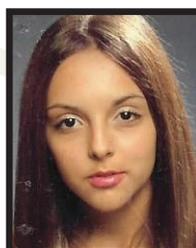
**Marko Knežević**  
*University of Osijek  
Computer Science  
Sponsor: Dragica Radoš Memorial*



**Mislav Petričević**  
*University of Zagreb  
Mechanical Engineering  
Sponsor: Mr. Željko Mikšić*



**Marin Markanjević**  
*University of Rijeka  
Computer Science  
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić*



**Marija Strgačić**  
*University of Zagreb  
Pharmacy  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko  
and Nicole Barle*

2016-2017

## *Marijana and Željko Pavić meet with Marija Strgačić, first year CSF student*

This summer in Zadar, we were delighted to have an opportunity to meet with Marija Strgačić before she starts her



*Marijana Pavić with Marija Strgačić and her mother Ana*

studies in Pharmacy at the University of Zagreb. Marija loves science, especially chemistry; it was difficult for her to decide whether to major in Pharmacy or Biochemistry. She was a straight A student all through high school and competed in local, county and national competitions. Last year she won a third place in county chemistry competition.

We met with Marija and her mother Ana for coffee in the town square. Marija shared with us how elated she was when she received a letter from CSF informing her that she was selected into the program. Actually, the first letter Marija received from CSF was in early July stating that she was on an alternate list. In August a very generous person contacted CSF and informed us that he wanted to sponsor three students. This allowed Marija to be accepted into the program. Marija and her mother shared with us how much this scholarship means to them. Marija has a younger sister still in classical high school; mother Ana works as a secretary and her father Joško has serious health problems and often is not able to work. They shared with us that he probably would need to start kidney dialysis. We were impressed with their positive attitude, strong faith in God and a belief that things will work out for the family.

Meeting with Marija and her mother Ana was heartwarming and inspiring. It truly brought home the importance of our work and how much CSF scholarship actually means to our students. Marija's story is just one example and had we not had this wonderful new sponsor come through at the last minute, Marija would still be on the alternate list. ■

## *Meeting with CSF Alumna Neli Gorgijevska-Sestanović*

This summer, CSF Board Members Nina Jurjević and Barbara Jagiello met with Neli Gorgijevska-Sestanović in Lumbarda, on the island of Korčula, where she lives with her husband Saša and their two children, and where she works for European Coastal Airway ("ECA") as a supervisor.



Neli was in class of 2002, attended American College in Dubrovnik in Management & Tourism Department. Her diploma was essential in obtaining her current position with ECA.

Neli is also a talented singer and performs at the Maestral Café in Lumbarda, in addition, she joined "Revelin" a women's klapa group. She writes songs and music and is committed to continuing her musical career.

Our stellar student had marvelous things to say about CSF and its many supporters. She tells us that without CSF, she would not have been able to attend school. When she graduated high school, she was living with her mother and siblings. They had encountered significant difficulties at that time and there was no money for Neli to go on to college.



*Nina Jurjević, alumna Neli Gorgijevska-Sestanović and Barbara Jagiello*

Her hopes for Croatia is that someday there would be a "level playing field for every citizen—and become a land of equal opportunity". Her message to our students is to keep doing what you do best, "Never give up pursuing your dreams"—they can be fulfilled.

Neli expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to CSF and all of its donors willing to invest in the future of young Croatians. She believes that many of CSF's contributors started with nothing in America and now they want to improve the circumstances for those within the Croatian community. Neli is very thankful for CSF and especially grateful to her sponsor, Mr. Robert Batinović and his family. ■

Mr. Tony Ujdur, one of our CSF founders and a great supporter is in failing health. We have Tony and his family in our hearts and prayers. God bless you and get well soon our dear friend.



### **Poštovani g. Kundić,**

Prije svega, jako sam Vam zahvalam što ste me odabrali za stipendiranje kroz Hrvatsku školsku zakladu,...

Želio bih posebno istaknuti da sam odrastao u velikoj obitelji s desetero djece, na koju sam iznimno ponosan, posebno na svoje roditelje koji su svoj život posvetili odgoju svoje djece....

Odrastanje u ovakvom okruženju, pomoglo mi je da se izgradim kao osoba s visokim uvažavanjem i poštovanjem drugih, da znam cijeniti sav trud mojih roditelja, njihove žrtve i odricanja, što mi je uvijek bio dodatni motiv za ispunjavanje svih svojih obveza.

Također, ova stipendija mi je dodatni poticaj da uspješno i na vrijeme ispunjavam sve svoje studentske obveze, sa što boljim rezultatima te tako si osiguram Vašu financijsku pomoć tijekom cijelog svog studija....

Srdačan pozdrav iz Slatine!

Tomislav Jaković

### **Poštovani gospodine Grgiću,**

Ovom prilikom želim Vam se zahvaliti na svemu. Razmišljam kako naći prikladne riječi i pune značenja koje bi mogle opisati moju zahvalnost Vama.....imama neopisiv osjećaj zahvalnosti što ste vjeroavli i Vi i Croatian Scholarship Fund/organizaciji sve ove četiri godine moga studija.

Osim neosporive financijske pomoći želim se zahvaliti Vama što ste upravo Vi kao i moja obitelj, moji roditelji pomogli da gojim osjećaj odgovornosti. Za svaki moj položen ispit ste i Vi dio toga kojim ste mi davali motiv da nastavim dalje. Naime, tijekom školovanja bilo je teških trenutaka, no osjećaj odgovornosti da netko vjeruje u mene davao mi je snagu i ustrajnost da budem tu gdje jesam.

Ovu sam godinu riješila sa prosjekom 4.100, te me od moga cijela dijeli još jedna godina školovanja da bih postala magistar inženjer svoje struke.

Nadam se da ću i ja doći u priliku da budem neovisna i stručna osoba koja će jednoga dana čitati ovakva pisam zahvalnosti. Hvala Vam što ste mi pokazali da i dalje ima dobrih ljudi koji žele pomoći.

Hvala Vam ba svemu!! Lijep pozdrav iz Zagreba,

Marija Jurić

### **Mr. Damir Radoš/McAdams Memorial**

#### **Dear Damir,**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your contribution towards making my education at university significantly easier... now, thanks to you, I have opportunity to completely dedicate all my time and energy to studying and learning for the exams without pressure how to finance my education.

My parents were trying to convince me that they will be able to finance my education and education of my sister despite their low wages. And „miracle“ happen when CSF Organisation send me acceptance letter and discover who is my sponsor.

Researching on the Internet I found many amazing informations about your work and work of your organisation in the past and I am flattered that you are my sponsor.

One more time, thank you for everything!

Yours faithfully,

Lea Pipunić

### **Poštovani gospodine Vasilj,**

....srdačno Vas pozdravljam,....S velikom radošću želim Vam priopćiti da sam uspješno završila prvu godinu medicinskog fakulteta u Mostaru, ....Na samom početku znala sam koliko je težak i zahtijevan ovaj fakultet, ali to je bio moj izbor i isključivo moja želja. Kako su mjeseci prolazili predmeti su bili sve teži i teži, a obaveze sve veće, međutim, ni u jednom trenutku nisam posustala jer sam na početku studija sebi zacrtala jasan cilj, a to je da jednog dana budem uspješan liječnik i da pomazem drugima.

Svaka poteškoća samo je korak naprijed prema ispunjavanju tog cilja,.... Uz maksimalan napor i uloženo vrijeme, uspjela sam u prvom roku okončati godinu sa izuzetnim prosjekom. Naravno to je velikim dijelom i Vaša zasluga, jer cijelo to vrijeme nisam morala razmišljati o financijskim problemima,....

Vaša velikodušnost mene ujedno i obavezuje da se trudim još jače i više, jer i kad je najteže sjetim se da je jedan veliki čovjek, kojeg bi mi bila izuzetna čast upoznati, odvojio velika materijalna sredstva da bi pomogao osobi na drugom kontinentu, koju uopće ne poznaje, da ostvari svoje ciljeve i ispuni svoj san.

....srdačno pozdravljam Vas i Vaše najmilije,

Jelena Pazin

### **Dragi Mrs. and Mr. Nicole and Stanko Barle,**

Hvala Vam na velikodušnosti da dijelite sa potrebitima. Stipendija Hrvatska Školska Zaklada je nešto prekrasno što se meni dogodilo u 2016. godini. Držim to velikim darom i providnošću...

Sada sam studentica Fakulteta strojarstva i brodogradnje u Zagrebu smjer strojarstvo. Vjerujem da će mi Bog dati zdravlje i sreću da nastavim predano raditi dalje kao bi bila na ponos i radost sebi, svojoj užoj i široj obitelji, te Vama mojoj drugoj nepoznatoj i nesebičnoj obitelji, te na dobro i korist široj zajednici Ljepe naše Hrvatske....

Vaš dar meni je veliki oslonac i poticaj za rad i napredak u odabitu moga budućeg zvanja.

Hvala i lijep pozdrav,

Gabrijela Perkov

### **Poštovani,**

Ovim putem Vas želim obavijestiti da sam završila Pravni fakultet Sveučilišta u Mostaru, nakon pet godina studija i stekla zvanje magistrar prava. Magistrirala sam 11. srpnja 2016. godine, zanimljivo a istog datuma samo 2011. godine sam upisala spomenuti studij. Tema magistarskog rada bila mi je „Obvezno osiguranje od automobilske odgovornosti“. Zahvaljujem Vam se na podršci koju ste mi pružili, zahvaljujem se na svakom dolaru koji ste uložili u moje obrazovanje, zaista HVALA VAM.

U narednom periodu namjeravam se zaposliti, nadam se u pravosuđu Bosne i Hercegovine, to mi je želja.

Još jednom Vam se zahvaljujem i želim Vam puno uspjeha u radu i svako dobro Vama i Vašim obiteljima.

Lijep pozdrav,

Dajana Sučić



Graduate, Dajana Sučić

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## 2016 GALA DINNER GALLERY



# Fund RAISING DRIVE

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.**

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Croatian Scholarship Fund  
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**For more information please call:**  
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Marko, *Secretary* at: **650.867.4674** or  
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