

Croatian Scholarship Fund

1989-2017



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INTRODUCTION

The year 2014 marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Croatian Scholarship Fund, the only non-profit Croatian-American organization in North America that provides scholarships to financially deserving students in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Few charities survive beyond their formative years, and even fewer make it for more than 25 years with an impeccable reputation. We have accomplished both – not only surviving, but thriving well into our third decade of existence. The CSF has earned recognition from government officials in the United States and Croatia, while also receiving numerous accolades from humanitarian and educational organizations at home and abroad. Our vital mission continues to burn brightly through the hundreds of students the CSF has helped.

The initial dream of our founders is now a reality. Our first students, who lived through war and conflict, are now leading productive, peaceful, and full lives in an independent Croatia. Several CSF students over the years have been recognized for their outstanding leadership and accomplishments and for their commitment to help other Croatian students. With the dedication and support of the CSF, these young people have the power to determine their own destinies and also the future of Croatia.

Over the course of our first 25 years, the CSF has become more than a charity. We have become a family of caring people who have nurtured and developed the dreams of many young men and women. A heartfelt thank you to each member of the CSF family for being part of such a wonderful dream. Whether you are a CSF student, a volunteer, a benefactor, a sponsor, or a contributor, we thank all of you for making the Croatian Scholarship Fund the amazing success it has become.



***F**rom
left to right:
Anthony Ujdur,
George Kuparak,
Robert Bronzan and
Branko Barbir
1994*

FOUNDERS

1980s



The spark that started the Croatian Scholarship Fund began in the least likely of places: a restaurant in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. This is where the restaurant's manager, Branko Barbir, met Anthony Ujdur. They quickly became friends with their shared Croatian heritage as a common bond. Barbir had immigrated to the United States in 1972 and settled in San Ramon with his wife and four young sons. Ujdur, a first-generation Croatian American, was a successful developer who had not forgotten his roots. Both men held a deep love for the history and the people of their homeland.

As the friendship grew, Barbir shared with Ujdur his desire to provide better educational opportunities for Croatian youth. Ujdur welcomed the chance to help and give back. And so, in 1989, the spark grew into the flame for what would become the Croatian Scholarship Fund. Its goal would be to help establish solid programs that would benefit the growth and development of Croatia's most important resource: its future generations.

Barbir and Ujdur recruited Bob Bronzan, whose knowledge of the higher education system would be key to getting the Croatian Scholarship Fund off the ground. Bronzan, a first-generation Croatian American, was a retired athletic director, football coach, and professor at San Jose State University. He was delighted to get behind such a good cause.



One of the first CSF meetings. Starting from third from left: John and July Viscovich, George Kumparak, Bill Cumbelich, Ana Barbir, Joann Bronzan



*Above: Bishop Želimir Puljić
and Bob Bronzan 1992*

*Right: Bob Bronzan with
Coach Bill Walsh at the 1993
Gala dinner*



*Bill Cumbelich and
Michael McAdams*



During the early years of the CSF, when there was no formal staff or funding to carry out the administrative duties, the three founders' wives and children, along with many other volunteers, stepped forward to help the new organization grow. Finally, in 1989, the CSF was established as a charitable non-profit, non-political organization focused on the sole purpose of providing university scholarships to Croatian students living in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1990s



Michael McAdams giving a speech at the 1993 Gala Dinner event

The CSF's first Board of Directors was established in the early 1990s. As decided by the founders, all Board members would serve as volunteers with no one receiving compensation for their work. As their first directive, the Board confirmed that their sole mission would be to raise funds to create scholarships that would help educate highly gifted, financially deserving young men and women who would someday become future leaders in medicine, technology, economics, law, engineering, political science, and other fields. The Board hoped that supporting education would build a peaceful and prosperous future for Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The violent breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s caused CSF to recognize the immediate need to help the Croatian people, as many Croatian Americans were also doing at this time. The CSF knew that once the war ended, national recovery from the devastation would fall to the country's young men and women. Želimir Puljić, then Bishop of Dubrovnik, spoke to the CSF, praising their vision and encouraging them to continue to look toward the future of the Croatian people by investing in their youth.

On May 2, 1992, the CSF's first local fundraising event, with honored keynote speaker Bishop Puljic, was held at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. More than 400 people attended. At the second fundraising dinner in 1993, at The Red Lion Hotel in San Jose, two distinguished gentlemen spoke to more than 450 guests: Bill Walsh, former coach of San Francisco 49ers, and Michael McAdams, a historian and an expert on Croatian history.



The first CSF scholarship recipients

In 1993, the CSF selected 20 students as the first group of scholarship recipients. The Board and volunteers of the CSF were overjoyed to finally be able to provide the scholarships for which they had worked so hard and with such dedication. Not only were they fulfilling the dreams of these first scholarship students, but also their own.



Vice President Al Gore, Dr. Joseph Cindrich and President Bill Clinton, 1996

In 1996, CSF Board member Dr. Joseph Cindrich was invited to The White House where he met with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, who both recognized the Croatian Scholarship Fund for its outstanding achievement in helping young Croatians gain a college education. Members of the United States Congress, the Republic of Croatia, and the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina gave special recognition to the CSF.

2000s

Since 2000, the Croatian American Cultural Center (CACC) in Sacramento, California, has held and sponsored successful annual gala dinner fundraisers where all proceeds from the evening were donated toward student scholarships.



Mike Župan



Mike Špalj



For their outstanding support, CSF presents CACC Board and its members a recognition plaque



CACC staff member Ilija Petričević serves Croatian-style food to Mirko Bandov



2010s

In 2012, the CSF hosted a charity benefit concert at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City featuring Luka Šulić and Stjepan Hauser, known as 2Cellos. More than 1,000 people attended the concert and came from as far away as New York and Canada.



2CELLOS



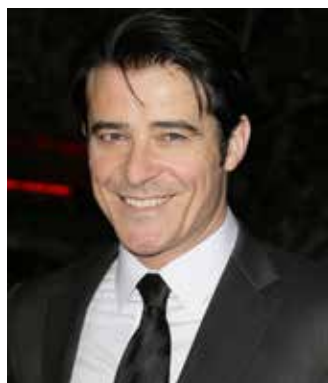
Stjepan Hauser, Gary and Chris Allen, Luka Šulić



2CELLOS, Stjepan Hauser and Luka Šulić



*Honorable Consul General
Josip Buljević*



Goran Višnjić



Student, Viktorija Meštrović

Current CSF President Marijana Pavić met with the former Croatian Minister of Education and Sports Dr. Radovan Fuchs to ensure that the CSF's work was recognized and supported by the Croatian government. Both the National Federation of Croatian Americans, in Washington, D.C., and the Croatian Fraternal Union, in Pennsylvania, praised the CSF education program in the mission to help educate young Croatians.

In April 2014, the CSF's 25th anniversary was celebrated at the CACC with a gala event that featured speakers Josip Buljević, Croatian Consul General from Los Angeles, and actor Goran Višnjić, who appeared in a personal video tribute. The highlight of the evening was the presentation by CSF recipient Viktorija Meštrović, who made the trip from Croatia to attend. Meštrović was selected by the CSF Board to represent all CSF students past, present, and future. She captivated the audience with her touching speech about what CSF means to her, to her family, and to every student who has received or will receive a scholarship. It was an evening to remember. CSF volunteers and sponsors enjoyed reminiscing about the organization's modest beginnings. They remembered meetings held at kitchen tables where they wondered how all the work would get done.



Ivana Puljiz, Marijana Pavić, Minister of Education, Dr. Radovan Fuchs, Professor Dijana Vican, and Željko Pavić, 2010



Above: Conductor Siniša Leopold and tamburica orchestra with Klapa Sveti Juraj



Right: singers Renata Sabljak, Jacques Houdak, and Sandra Bagarić

Far right: Dr. Božo Skoko, CSF Graduate



Right: Marijana Pavić, CSF President



On September 26, 2014, the CSF celebrated 25th Anniversary in Zagreb, Croatia, with a charity concert and reception. The concert was held at the Kazalište Komedija where the HRT Tamburiza Orchestra, directed by Siniša Leopold, performed an amazing concert, accompanied by several well-known Croatian singers. Following the concert, all of the CSF's scholarship recipients, both graduates and current students, gathered for a reception. This was a momentous occasion for the CSF and our students as together we celebrated 25 years of joint accomplishments.



silver 25yr logo



Visitors signing the student guest book



Branko Barbir, Diane and Tony Ujdur, and Ana Barbir



CSF students and graduates



Dr. Božo Skoko, Ljiljana Vinković, Marijana Pavić, Conductor Siniša Leopold



CSF graduates



Daria Kizner and Joe Meixner



CSF graduates



Dr. Zdenko Kovač, Dr. Maria Olujić, Dr. Helena Jasna Mencer, and Dr. Branko Jeren



Audience at Kazalište Komedija, Zagreb



Ante Buljan, Dr. Anamaria Brozović, and Michelle Milardović



Siniša Leopold, third from left, family and freinds



CSF students and graduates

STUDENTS



Božo Skoko, first student to visit and speak at the annual Gala Dinner, 1996

From various parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, we have come to the metropolis of all Croatians, Zagreb, to continue our education. In this way, a new life has opened up before us, which, in the past we could only have dreamt of: we have become participants in academia and more valuable citizens to our nation – all of which was made possible by the Croatian Scholarship Fund.

~ Božo Skoko



Nikolina Eraković, Gala Dinner, 1997

[D]uring the war I lived as a refugee in Zagreb. In that period many bad things happened to me... but life goes on...and I chose further education. At that time I got a scholarship from CSF. That was actually the only nice thing that happened to me in that period.

Financial help is important, but I also know that some place far away there are some people who actually want to help...and are thinking about us back home in Croatia.

~ Nikolina Eraković



Ivona Ondelj, Gala Dinner, 1999

During the war, my family and I were forced to evacuate...only my father stayed in Mostar and fought for freedom of our country with thousands of other men. The misery and helplessness was everywhere but the taste for freedom was much stronger and kept us going...

The loss of my father was devastating...in moments of extraordinary need, I came upon a great Croatian heart...the CSF organization.

...My life's road was full of obstacles beyond control....on this life road, a special flame with strong bright lights was and always will be my sponsor, Mark Palajac...Thank you Mr. Mark, and thank you for growing with me and being like a father to me. Thank you for all the love and support, all your letters, for finding in your heart a place

for me.....Thank you for believing in me and in my work...for your generosity, which has created endless possibilities for my future....How can I then say thank you, when words are not enough.

I am honored and proud to be a student of the CSF and to have you as my friends and family. I hope that some time in the future, as a lawyer, I can justify all your faith and trust that you have invested in me. By using my ideas I hope to create a more perfect law system in my country.

~ Ivona Ondelj



Sandra Lončar recieved a standing ovation after delivering her speech, December, 2010: "One of the most memorable days if my life was the day I recieved a letter from the CSF informing me that I had been accepted into the program."

Mr. Ujdur,

I can't find the words to describe my happiness when Mrs. Brekalo told me that I'm coming to America. I can't believe such opportunity was given to me....

Three years ago, when I first found out that I was one of the recipients of CSF, I couldn't imagine that you and Mrs. Ujdur will become my second parents! It was hard to believe that such good people are out there, but you made me believe otherwise. People like you present pride for Croats all over the world. I talk about you and CSF all the time. Your help came when it was the most necessary and words as simple as "thank you" are not enough to express all that my heart is feeling inside....

I can't wait to finally meet you and your family, I hope you'll like me.... My dream is to be like you one day, be a member of CSF and help students...

- Sandra Lončar



For more than 25 years, the CSF is thrilled to have been able to provide financial assistance to more than 300 young Croatian students who earned college degrees in a number of academic disciplines, including medicine, law, business, political science, dentistry, and technology. In 2015, there were 54 students receiving scholarships. Our students tell us that they are grateful and encouraged to receive help from people that live so far away who are willing to invest in their education.



CSF students met with Branko Barbir in Zagreb, 1994



CSF students in Zagreb, 1994



Marina Sertić, fourth from right, met with the alumni group in Zagreb, 2010



CSF Alumni led by Božo Skoko, back row third from the right, and Dario Nikić Čakar (who took the photo), and participating students with CSF's Dr. Joe Cindrich, back row third from the left



The Association of CSF Scholars in Zagreb from left: Dario Nikić Čakar, Snježana Premus Baltić, Ana Tečić and Božo Skoko

From the beginning, the CSF Board established rigorous selection criteria, academic standards and monitoring guidelines that are still in place today. A CSF student liaison closely monitors students' academic progress. The Board's goal remains the same: to provide scholarships to the brightest students with the highest academic achievements who have also demonstrated financial need.

The scholarship amount in 1993, when the first 20 students were selected, was \$1,200 per year for the duration of four years. In 2007, the amount was increased to \$1,500. In 2014, the CSF Board approved an increase to \$2,000 per year to correspond with the Bologna System that Croatia adopted in preparation for E.U. membership. The Board also officially changed the scholarship distribution to coincide with the Bologna System where a student can finish his or her undergraduate study in three years and, if accepted, may continue for two more years to obtain a graduate degree.

In 2006, CSF graduates in Croatia formed an organization called the Association of Croatian Scholarship Fund Scholars. Their purpose was to create cooperation among scholarship recipients, work toward building a better future for their country, and assist present and future CSF students. The organization was established under the leadership of CSF graduate Dr. Božo Skoko, who is also the CSF's contact person in Croatia. Dr. Skoko writes articles about the CSF for the Croatian media and helps with student recruitment and scholarship announcements.

GRADUATES OF THE CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROGRAM

1993-1997

Andelko Brežički
Mladen Delić
Barbara Golubičić
Dijana Huseđinović
Željko Jeleč
Ivana Martinović
Josipa Mazalin
Žana Pažin
Marija Radelj
Nela Tabaković
Marin Vundać

1994-1998

Kornela Bilopavlović
Boris Blažević
Marin Blažević
Vilko Cindrić
Melita Dabelić
Nikolina Eraković
Ivan Ivec
Anita Penić
Renata Pošta
Damir Potalec
Božo Skoko

1995-1999

Vlatko Duspara
Marijana Pavić
Marijo Jukić
Snježana Premuš
Ivana Rašić
Kristina Šariri
Dijana Žilić

1996-2000

Dragan Lenžel
Ivona Ondelj
Helena Vicković

1997-2001

Tajana Čebić
Ivanka Ercegovac
Mario Jurčić
Barbara Karlo
Dragan Zelić
Dražen Zrno

1998-2002

Mirela Copot
Mihovil Ivas
Krešimir Lončkrević
Marijana Malek
Josip Mišković
Josip Štajfer
Ivo Tošić
Milena Vučković

1999-2003

Ivana Čanjuga
Ksenija Ćurić
Mario Filipović
Sanja Krajinović
Katijela Gomerčić
Vinko Hadjina
Nikolina Hazdovac
Tomislav Ivek
Hrvoje Lisec
Marina Ninčević
Fani Radolfi
Ljubica Tikvica
Janica Tomić

2000-2004

Denis Borić
Damir Čuljak
Miroslav Jagica
Bruno Jozinović
Hrvoje Jozinović
Goran Jutriša
Martina Kečkeš
Edita Kašovski
Ivica Kovačević

Senka Leder
Tomislav Lipoščak
Matija Majstorović
Katarina Pičuljan
Josip Požar
Petrona Prskalo
Mato Radić
Hrvoje Šimić
Božo Šimunović
Katarina Špoljarić
Višnja Štimac
Irena Stipetić
Zrinka Šumanovac
Ivana Zečević
Marija Zeko

2001-2005

Dario Ćakar
Neli Gorgijevska
Andelka Herceg
Marijana Katić
Ivica Lukić
Josip Vlaić

2002-2006

Slaven Radoš
Tanja Radoš
Iva Tomić
Maja Tomičić

2003-2007

Nikola Kolušić
Mario Landeka
Melita Matan
Katarina Vukšić

2004-2008

Karolina Agatić
Sabina Barbiš
Marija Gogić
Antonia Jozinović
Josip Madunić
Milica Mašić
Lucija Meštrović

Sandra Milanko
Toma Molnar
Paula Pranjčić
Marija Rezo
Ivan Sakać
Ivan Tomić
Katarina Živanović

2005-2009

Marijana Babić
Vjeran Filipović
Dalibor Funtak
Mislav Gogić
Mihaela Homjak
Josip Kočur
Magdalena Matijević
Kristijan Raić
Ana Tečić

2006-2010

Mislav Cvitković
Petar Šime-Čepo
Kristina Glumac
Ivona Jelaš
Damir Jerković
Ivan Konta
Martina Kudeljnjak
Jurica Kundrača
Marin Martić
Ivana Radočaj
Svjetlana Rašić
Martina Šibalić
Sladana Trač
Danijel Vranešić
Ana Zovko

2007-2011

Luka Antunović
Petar Bešlić
Petra Krstić
Matea Marušić
Krešimir Starčević
Antun Vidić

2008-2012

Zvonimir Bošnjak
Tomislav Brišević
Anja Duran
Ivan Jukić
Marija Jukić
Sandra Maleta
Matea Marušić
Ljubica Mlikotić
Matko Mužević
Lucia Petković
Vladimir Rosančić
Maša Šablić (Golubović)
Ana Vlahović

2009-2013

Martina Brkljačić
Marija Herceg
Lucija Ostojić
Lucija Pralas
Ines Rezo
Matej Tomašević

2010-2014

Katarina Balija
Matej Bošnjak
Mirko Herceg
Anto Jurišić
Kristina Malbašić
Martina Marković
Lucija Pavlinec
Dragica Pejazić
Dominik Puljić
Matej Tomašević

2011-2015

Antonia Barešić
Ivona Barešić
Julio Car
Filip Đerke
Mislav Karaula

Lavoslav Kučko
Tajana Obad
Ema Ormanec
Dajana Sučić
Dora Šuto
Josip Tica
Silvia Tica

2012-2016

Ivan Brkić
Marko Galić
Marija Jurić
Mijat Jurišić
David Kordić
Zrinka Lešić
Viktorija Meštrović
Monika Perutina
Marijana Savić

2013-2017

Tomislav Andrić
Ana Batinović
Filip Dujmušić
Matej Erceg
Sara Marija Lovrenović
Dario Martić
Bojana Matić
Marina Mišković
Valentina Plantak
Zoran Primorac
Katarina Risović
Mate Šimović
Ivan Školka
Lucija Stilinović
Josipa Stjepanović
Josip Živković

STUDENT LETTERS

Dear CSF Directors,

On behalf of Ivan Ivec, his family and school, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for the scholarship he has been granted, which will help my son achieve his dream. Others have dissuaded him from that goal, and yet, despite our financial uncertainty, he has said decisively, "If your love for mathematics, like the roar of thunder, overshadows all else, then you know that you must devote your entire life to it." And so the whole household cried with joy when your notification arrived. We thank the dear Lord for such wonderful, unselfish people so far away, whose hearts still beat for their motherland.

Sincerely,
Boža Ivec
May, 1995



Dear CSF,
...I wrote to you in March confirming my enrollment in the fourth semester of study toward my degree in Physiotherapy.

I am particularly thankful for the

newsletter you sent me because it has shown me how fortunate I am to have such intelligent and kind people as you. Not long ago, I wrote to my sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Bronzan, who have become like second parents to me. All I can offer in exchange for everything they have done for me is my inexpressible devotion and respect for them. As I have already written, my father was a Croatian soldier for three years....My entire family is grateful that we have gained a free and independent Croatia....I have received no academic priveleges as the son of a Croatian defender, and since my father is the sole supporter of the family, I thought my dream of enrolling in college would remain just that. However, you and your organization have transformed that dream into reality and have made my parents and me immeasurably happy and thankful....I am greatly honored and pleased that you have chosen me as one of your scholarship recipients. At the same time, I feel a deep committment to live up to your expectations.

I am also thankful to all those who participated in the last CSF dinner dance and whose donations guarantee my continuing education and that of my colleagues all over Croatia. I sincerely hope I will succeed in school and that I will be able to help in the continuing work of CSF and in the realization of the dreams of future generations of Croatians as you have helped me.

Ivo Tošić
April, 2000



Dear Mr. Black,

I don't know what else to say except that I am very grateful for all that you have done for me....

I was born in Vukovar, 14th April, 1984. My father was killed in combat during the Serbian assault on Croatia. My mother, sister and I moved to Rijeka where we started a new life....I finished primary and secondary school of electrical engineering because I love computers and technology.

I would like to know something about you, because I think that people like you are rare. Please write me if you catch some free time. Thank you very much once again.

Regards,
Andrej Jukić, January, 2003

Dear CSF,

All my life I watched how it isn't enough just to be great and persistent in something to succeed, actually how that isn't important at all if you (are lucky to) have someone great standing behind you or if you have a last name that is well known....Sometimes it was really hard to watch... and the injustice hurt...but there is nothing you can do except to try and work even harder, be greater, hoping that some day, someone will notice your effort and appreciate it. ...I was always pushed forward by the little faith deep inside me telling me that my hard work will pay off some day and that I can make a difference ...to help my community.

That faith has grown enormously when I learned of your fund and that I, a small anonymous person, became part of it. No words can describe the greatness of your acts and my gratefulness and, I believe, of all the others who experienced and, hopefully, will experience your help.

Yours sincerely,
Svjetlana Bulić (Rašić),
October, 2003



Dear Madam,

I received your letter confirming that the Croatian Scholarship Fund granted me a scholarship. I am very grateful, and I promise that I will give my best to justify the confidence you have put in me by giving me your help. It is a great honor for me to be among the excellent Croatian scholars whom you have chosen....I would like also to express gratitude on behalf of my parents to whom this scholarship will largely help in providing for our whole household.

I have successfully enrolled in Law at the University of Zagreb, taking the second place on the acceptance list.

Yours truly,
Paula Pranjic
August, 2004



Dear CSF members,

I am using this opportunity to thank you from all my heart for deciding to help me in fulfilling my life dream.

When I was younger I always dreamt about studying molecular biology, but in these days, unfortunately, dreams and strong will are not enough. What upsets me even more is when I see my mother who is

trying so hard to afford me a decent education....

Your help will not only ease her life, but mine as well....It gives me faith that there are people in this world who are willing to help....

Thank you once more for your aid...my family and I value that immensely! We wish you all the luck and success in the world.

Sincerely,
Josip Madunić
March, 2005



Dear Mrs. Brekalo,

I would like to describe the role of your stipend for me from a distance of a few years....

I grew up in a small village in the Dalmatian countryside....During the Croatian War of Independence my district was also occupied...my grandparents village and everything they had was burnt, and we were all living together just with father's non-recurrent salary. Therefore, in my elementary and high school during and after the War, we had to combine school with every day work

on the field and in our little family earn something to live normally.

At the end of my high school years, father's company bankrupted....I already had two older brothers in college.

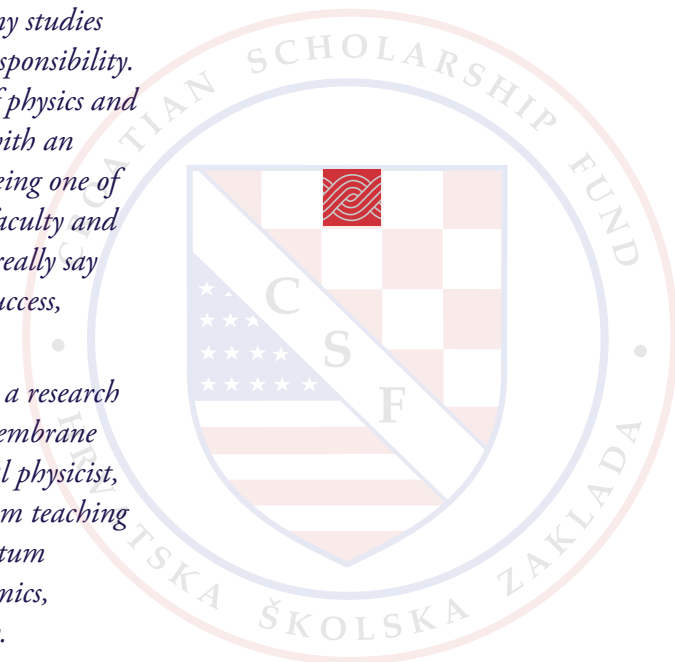
Fortunately, I saw an announcement for the CSF stipends, and I applied immediately. When I saw that I won a stipend I was the happiest person in the world. Because that meant that I could go to study in Zagreb without any burden for my parents. On the other hand, that was also an encouragement to take my studies with all diligence and responsibility. I enrolled in the study of physics and finished it in 4.5 years with an average grade of 4.91, being one of the best students in the faculty and of the generation. I can really say that this is not just my success, but also yours!

Currently, I am making a research in the field of cellular membrane biophysics as a theoretical physicist, and at the same time I am teaching advanced courses (Quantum Mechanics, Electrodynamics, Biophysics) at University.

I am writing to you because I think I owe at least this little letter for everything that your stipend meant for me. You can take this as a kind of encouragement to go further with doing good for all the people that need your help.

Thank you once more for everything and all the best.

Mag. Phys. Mislav Cvitković
October, 2013





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- Mr. & Mrs. Tomo Miškić • Mr. & Mrs. Nedjeljko and Ivica Miličević • Mr. & Mrs. Slavko and Cecilia Miškić
 - Morison & Foerster Foundation • Mr. Steve Musich • Ms. Joan Nelson • Mr. James Old • Olujić Family
- Mr. Mark Palajac • Pandol Brothers • Mr. & Mrs. Željko and Marijana Pavić • Mr. & Mrs. Janko & Sharon Prezgar
- Mr. Damir Radoš-Michael McAdams Memorial • Mrs. Mary Robert • Ms. Stanislava Rotkvić • Mr. & Mrs. Ivo and Mira Stipinovich-Puljiz • Mr. & Mrs. Bob and Celia Sertich • Mr. & Mrs. Darko and Marina Sertić
 - SF Symphony-Vidovich • Mr. & Mrs. Bruno and Slavica Skračić • Mr. & Mrs. Jure and Michelle Šola
 - Mr. & Mrs. Nikola Štefanac • Sunce Winery-Frane Franičević • Ms. Margaret Puljich-Titus
 - Mr. Tony Ujdur • Alan Unger Foundation • Mr. Paul Unger • Mr. & Mrs. Željko and Zdenka Urban
 - Marko Vasilj Memorial • Mr. Zlatko Vasilj • Mrs. Lydia Vidovich • Mr. Andrew Viscovich
 - Mr. & Mrs. Bill and Geri Walsh • Mr. & Mrs. Walt and Linda Wismar • Mr. and Mrs. Ante Zovich

Each year funds are generated for the scholarship program through private donations and fundraising events. Any individual, family, or organization that provides at least \$2,000 to support one full scholarship for a single academic year is recognized as a “sponsor.” The CSF is very proud of its benefactor program. Currently, there are about a dozen benefactors, some of whom fund as many as six students per year. Students are in contact with their benefactors for the duration of their study. Benefactors and students create life-long friendships through this highly successful program.

We at the CSF express our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to all the contributors and volunteers who have given their time, energy, and funds over the first 25 years. Without your dedication and support, more than 300 young Croatian students would not have had the opportunity to earn a college education.



Tony and Diane Ujdur



From left, Branko Barbir, sponsor Mrs. Mary Robert, Congressman Kucinich, a visiting student, and Bill Cumbelich



Peter and Pam Bogdanovich and student Sandra Milanko



Joe and Candis Vasilj



*Above: Bill and Sara Cumbelich
Below: Cumbelich family*



Mark Palajac and Ivona Ondelj



Marko and Jacqueline Bodor



Slava and Mate and Buljan



Joann Bronzan



Robert Batinovich



Jure Šola



Mark Palajac and family



Ana Leutar, student Božo Skoko and student liaison, Jasminka Puškarić



Nina and Tony Jurjević



Mr. and Mrs. Stipe Bubalo



Mr. and Mrs. Sertić with student Ana Tečić



Left to right: Dalibor Funtak, Nikolina Eraković, Josip Miškovič, Robert Batinovich, Toma Pervan, Vedrana Bobinac



Rosemary Dixon



Joan Kumparak



Jozo Bajurin (center) with family and friends



Former 49er coach Bill Walsh (center)



Željko and Mrijana Pavić



Duplančić family



Marijana Pavić with Lydia Vidovich at the Vidovich Estate CSF Fundraiser



Mike Grgich

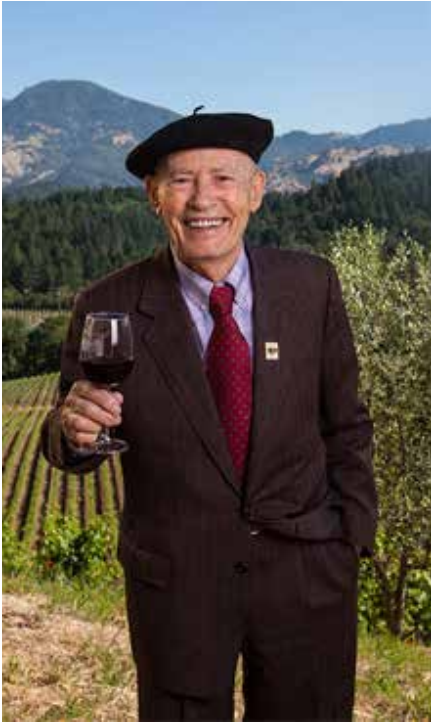


Marija Lozo and Barbara Jagiello



Far right: Marijana Pavić with CSF alumni members in Zagreb

GRGICH ENDOWMENT FUND



Mike Grgich describes his Grgich Endowment Fund “as a way to allow me to say ‘thank you’ to those many people who helped me and at the same time help the next generation achieve their own dreams by starting a foundation for professional wine studies.”

Internationally known vintner, Croatian-born Miljenko “Mike” Grgich established the Grgich Endowment Fund in 2013. Mr. Grgich’s generous donation provides scholarships for three to five students per year who pursue a master’s degree in viticulture and enology at the University of Zagreb, Grgich’s alma mater. The fund also includes two continuing-study intern positions at California wineries. With this endowment fund, Mr. Grgich shares his passion and hopes that the education of future grape growers and winemakers in Croatia will help the country develop a world-class wine industry.

On May 10, 2014, at Grgich Hills Estate in St. Helena, eight CSF Board members presented Mr. Grgich with their sincere thanks and a plaque of recognition for his many years of support. At the gathering, Grgich – who is known to sing to the grapes in his vineyard – serenaded the group, beginning with the Croatian national anthem and then moving on to other Croatian standards. Mr. Grgich said that the plaque of recognition was more important to him than his induction into the Vintner Hall of Fame, “because this is something from the country I came from.” The Grgich Endowment Fund will keep his legacy alive in the Croatian community for many years to come.

GOLF TOURNAMENTS

There are two Golf Tournaments held each year to benefit and fund scholarships for CSF students. For many years now, Mr. Zlatko Vasilj (Big Joe) has holds a Golf Tournament in Roseville area and the proceeds from this event are donated to CSF. The Annual Golf Tournaments in Bay Area have become a popular event with the golfers and CSF is grateful to Ante Buljan, Alan Saračević, Gary Alan, Branko Barbir, Serge Barbir, Chip Kumparak, Marko Buljan for organizing these successful events.



Big Joe Golf Tournament: Denis Vasilj, Travis Brown, Zlatko Vasilj, Marko Vasilj and Mike Caudill at the Big Joe Golf Tournament, 2009



Hiddenbrooke Golf Course, Vallejo, CA



Tony Ujdur "wants you!"



Jim Siri, Ante Buljan, Tim Dees, and Cliff Jones



Chrystal Springs Golf Course, Burlingame, CA

ENTERTAINERS



*Mate Bulić and band,
1999*



Vice Vukov, 2001

Numerous successful fund-raising events have been held at the Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento and the Hotel Sofitel in Redwood City, where well-known Croatian singers such as Vice Vukov and Mate Bulić entertained the guests and drew large crowds.



Tatijana Tajči, 2013



Zrinski band: Emil Jakovčević, Martin Kolega, Johnny Barbić (on drums), Johnny Berković and Nick Barbić, 2014

During the various fundraising events guests were entertained by the outstanding tambura band Sidro. The Koraci Folklore Ensamble kolo group from San Jose, under the leadership of Mr. Leo Andres, also performed at many CSF fundraising events.



Blue Adriatic: Serge Barbir, Emil Jakovčević, Mark Barbir, James Gudelj and Mike Matušić, at Hotel Sofitel, 1993



Sidro tamburitza band (formerly Blue Adriatic): From left: Thomas Gudelj, James Gudelj, Emil Jakovčević, Serge Barbir, Mike Matušić, Anthony Gudelj, at the Vidovich Estate Fundraiser, 2000



Sidro performing at Croatian American Cultural Center (CACC) in Sacramento, 2002



Top row far left: Sidro tambura band

Top row far right:

Director Leo Andres and assistant instructor, Slavica Skračić

Dancers:

Top row: Ivo Miškić, Mate Dlaka, Alex Držaić, Igor Verkić, Anthony Barbir, Zvonimir Šola, Filip Šola. **Second row:** Stephanie Kolarić, Jelena Kutleša, Ivana Verkić, Kate Dlaka, Adriana Andres, Maya Sertić, Sandra Dlaka, Ruža Radić, Antonija Cukrov, Marijana Marušić. **Third row:** Martina Lasich, Kristian Ivanov, Daria Šimunić, Tea Muftić, Ante Marcelić, Bianka Bubić, Ivan Ljubičić. **Fourth row:** Andrea Cukrov, Angela Miškić, Ana Radić, Tea Gudelj, Ante Marušić, Charlie Shumake, Tomislav Kutleša, Josip Marcelić, Lana Andres. **Fifth row:** Zvonko Marcelić, Mirna Skračić, Ivka Stimach, AnaMaria Šola, Ivana Lasich, Dora Sertić, Lucija Stimach, Luka Sertić, 2004



KORACI Folklore Ensemble, San Jose, California

Left: Leo Andres, Director of KORACI

Below: Koraci performing dances from various regions of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



AUCTIONS AND DONORS



Nina Jurjević heads up the silent auction



Talented and gracious women of our community provide Croatian baked goods for our abundant and gorgeous silent auctions



Branko Barbir and Chip Kumparak team up at the entrance desk



Provided by local wine makers, the wine donations for our exquisite baskets are always a big hit. Pictured here are a few of the winemakers who recieved a CSF plaque honoring their continued support. From left: Mike Grgich of Grgich Hills Estate in St. Helena; Rick Quinn and Dave Nichols of Opolo Vineyards in Paso Robles; Tony Ujdur and Branko Barbir with winemaker Fane Franičević of Sunce Winery in Santa Rosa



Singer Tatijana Tajči (left) took the live auction to another level at the 2013 fundraiser, assisting Gary Allen (center) who orchestrated the auction process with charm and expertise

For over 15 years, the Croatian American Culteral Center in Sacramento has partnered with CSF by donating their hall and services

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM 1990 TO PRESENT

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1990

Dr. Robert Bronzan, President
Mr. Anthony Ujdur, Vice President
Mr. Branko Barbir, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1993

Dr. Andrew Viscovich, President
Dr. Robert Bronzan, Past President
and Publications
Mr. Anthony Ujdur, Vice President
Mr. Branko Barbir, Secretary and Liaison
Mr. George Kuparak, Treasurer and
Business Affairs
Mr. Bill Cumbelich, Fundraising
Dr. Clarice Lolich, Scholarships
Mr. Tony Ujdur, Social Affairs
Dr. Joseph Cindrich, Membership

INITIAL HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mrs. Anda Bandov
Dr. Louis Barbir
Ms. Pauline Basor
Mr. Ivan Buljan
Mr. Nick Castellan
Mr. Ivan Cikes
Dr. Joseph Cindrich

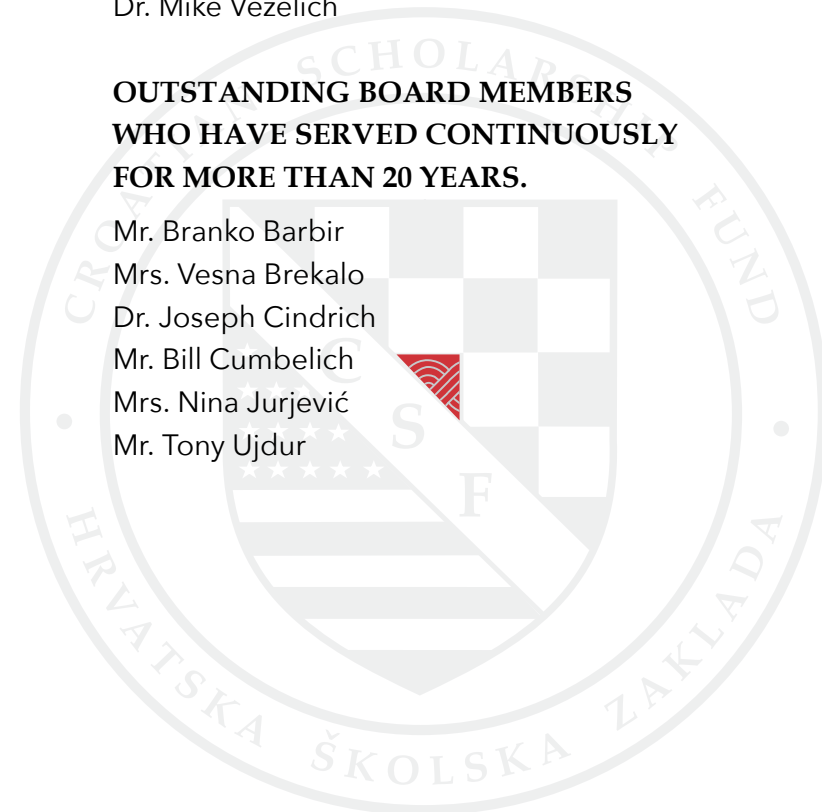
Mr. Bill Cumbelich
Mr. Milan Cvitanovich
Mr. Adam Eterovich
Mr. Thomas Gudelj
Ms. Norma Guileri
Mr. Mato Herceg
Mr. Miljenko "Mike" Grgich
Ms. Nane Jemo
Mr. Mike Johnson
Dr. Clairce Lolich
Mrs. Nina Jurjević
Mr. Mike Matusich
Mr. Michael McAdams
Dr. Ivan Nenadich
Mr. J. G. Nickolas
Ms. Violet Oakley
Dr. Maria Olujić
Rev. Bono Prcela
Dr. Želimir Puljić
Ms. Jasminka Puškarić
Ms. Amanda Roble
Mr. Nikola Skarić
Mr. Nikola Štefanac
Dr. Drago Sudar
Mr. John Viscovich
Mr. Ivo Vučićević
Mr. John Zorovich

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1994

Mr. Branko Barbir
Dr. Robert Bronzan
Dr. Joseph Cindrich
Mr. William J. Cumbelich
Mrs. Nina Jurjević
Mr. George Kumparak
Mrs. Katarina Mijatović
Mrs. Jasminka Puškarić
Mrs. Slavica Skračić
Mr. Anthony Ujdur
Dr. Mike Vezelich

OUTSTANDING BOARD MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED CONTINUOUSLY FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.

Mr. Branko Barbir
Mrs. Vesna Brekalo
Dr. Joseph Cindrich
Mr. Bill Cumbelich
Mrs. Nina Jurjević
Mr. Tony Ujdur



COMMUNITY LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS

PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Bob Bronzan
Dr. Andrew J. Viscovich
Mr. William Cumbelich
Mr. George Kumparak
Mr. Gary Allen
Mrs. Nina Jurjević
Mrs. Marijana Pavić

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Gary Allen
Mr. Branko Barbir
Mr. Serge Barbir
Mrs. Vesna Brekalo
Mr. Marko Buljan
Mrs. Liz Buljan
Dr. Joseph Cindrich
Mr. William Cumbelich
Mrs. Rosemary Dixon
Mrs. Vera Duplančić
Mrs. Barbara Jagiello
Mrs. Nina Jurjević
Mr. Chip Kumparak
Mrs. Zora Ljoljić
Mrs. Marijana Pavić
Mr. Željko Pavić
Mr. Alan Saračević
Mr. Darko Sertić

Mrs. Marina Sertić
Ms. Veronika Skalar
Mrs. Slavica Skračić
Ms. Denise Standridge
Mr. Tony Ujdur
Mr. Bob Wilson

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WHO SERVED ON THE BOARD

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bubalo
Mr. and Mrs. Mladen Buntić
Ms. Kristine Caratan
Mr. Joseph Cumbelich
Ms. Carol Čupić
Mrs. Roberta Dlaka
Dr. Neno Duplančić
Mr. Adam Eterovich
Ms. Elsie Euing
Ms. Mary Gervasio
Mr. George Francić
Mr. & Mrs. Richard and Kay Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Majich
Mr. & Mrs. Pero Matijašević
Ms. Helen O'Brien
Dr. Maria Olujić
Mr. Mark Palajac
Ms. Lydia Vidovich
Mr. John Viscovich
Mr. Mario Vlahović
Mr. Mile Župan

CSF RECEIVES ONGOING SUPPORT FROM THESE GENEROUS ORGANIZATIONS:

Croatian American Cultural Center
in Sacramento

Croatian American Foundation
in New York

Hrvatski Radio Klub-Croatian Radio Club
in New York

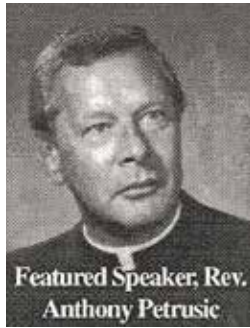
St. Mary of Assumption Croatian Mission
in San Jose

St. Anthony Croatian Catholic Church
in Los Angeles



*A recent CSF board meeting at the office of Applied Ceramics,
graciously provided by Darko Sertić*

GALLERY *1990s*



Featured Speaker, Rev. Anthony Petrusic, a gifted speaker, professor, and humanitarian, was the keynote speaker at the 1993 dinner fundraiser



Croatian Ambassador to the U.S., Honorable Petar Sarčević, praised CSF's achievements as the keynote speaker at Hotel Sofitel, 1994



Among a large group of 1995 Distinguished Croatian-American Awardees were Robert Batinovich, Mrs. Buich, Andrew Viscovich, Robert Bronzan, Joann Bronzan, Tony Ujdur, Mike Grgich, Hon. Judge Katherine Mader, Fra. Bone, Janja Sušac, Tony Butala, with MC Joe Cindrich



Croatian Ambassador to the U.S., Honorable Petar Sarčević, Dr. Joe Cindrich, John Viscovich, Tony Ujdur, Branko Barbir and Bill Cumbelich, 1994



Stipe Gabrić, Major of Metković 1998, and first donor from Croatia



Anne Bachan-Jigger, speaker in 1998



Elsie Euing, dinner chair in 1999



Croatian Ambassador to the U.S., Hon. Consul General Mr. Mišo Munivrana applauding Fr. Mikulić who had turned 101 years old, 1999



First bocce ball tournament held in San Jose, 1995. From top row, left: Luka Ukalović, Jozo Rajić, Branko Barbir, Vicko Beusan, Jozo Ivanković, Željko Šola, Velimir Sulić



Branko Barbir and Congressman George Radanovich who was a guest at the 1996 Gala Dinner Event



Ivo Vučićević, Michael McAdams, Patricia Penavich, special assistant to President Clinton, 1997



Some members of the Board, 1996. Back row: Bill Cumbelich, George Kumparak. Front: Andrew Viscovich, Jackie Montgomery (bookkeeper), Nina Jurjević, Roberta Dlaka, Vesna Brekalo, Neno Duplančić



At a board meeting in 1997. Back row: George Kumparak, Branko Barbir, Elsie Euwing. Front row: Adam Eterovich, Danica Eterovich, Vesna Brekalo, Ana Barbir, and Janice O'Bairn



KORACI, little kolo



Ruže Dalmatinske



John Morović Tamburica Band



Tony Butala of The Lettermen



Mate Bulić



Novi Stari Tamburaši



GALLERY *2000s*



President Nina Jurjević and founder Tony Ujdur presenting recognition plaque to the Croatian American Cultural center Board members



Los Angeles group holds successful CSF Fundraising Events in 2000-2001. From left: Rev. Miljenko Majić, Kay Jordan, Richard Jordan, Maryann Skoko, Ana Matijašević, and Pero Matiješević. Not pictured, Master of Ceremonies, and Ferdo Brkić



Ana Barbir, student Ivona Ondelj, George Kumparak and Vesna Brekalo at the 2000 dinner dance fundraiser



Lydia and John Vidovich generously hosted a CSF fundraiser at their beautiful home, 2004



Joe Cindrich and George Kumparak presenting Nikola Stefanac a Distinguished Croatian-American Award



Above: Miho Šimunović, a local artist, has been a CSF auction sponsor for many years, donating numerous beautiful paintings of Croatian and Californian landscapes



Koraci dancers: Mate, Katarina, Samdra Dlaka and Anthony Barbir



GALLERY *2010s*



Nina Jurjević, Mirko Bandov, student Sandra Lončar, and Dr. Joe Cindrich, 2010



Darko Sertić, Vesna Brekalo, Marina Sertić, Chip Kumparak, Marijana Pavić, Bishop Želimir Puljić, Joe Cindrich, Branko Barbir, 2011



Gary Allen, first left, and Branko Barbir, far right, present Recognition Awards to Mike Matošević, Joe Vasilj, Tony Ujdur, and Bill Cumbelich, 2009



At an Executive and Advisory Board meeting, back row: Tony Ujdur, Branko Barbir, Gary Allen, Matt Darko Sertich, Dr. Joe Cindrich, Chip Kumparak, Želko Pavić. Front row: Nina Jurjević, Marijana Pavić, Lydia Vidovich, Vesna Brekalo, Marina Sertić and Barbara Jagiello, 2013



Vesna Brekalo and Ana Barbir received Recognition Awards for their continual outstanding service. Pictured from left: Nina Jurjević, Vesna Brekalo, Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Ana Barbir, Hon. Consul General Ilija Želalić, and Marijana Pavić, 2011



Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Croatian Ambassador to the United States in 2011, and currently, the first female president of Croatia



Koraci folklore dancers honor Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović of her support for CSF, 2011



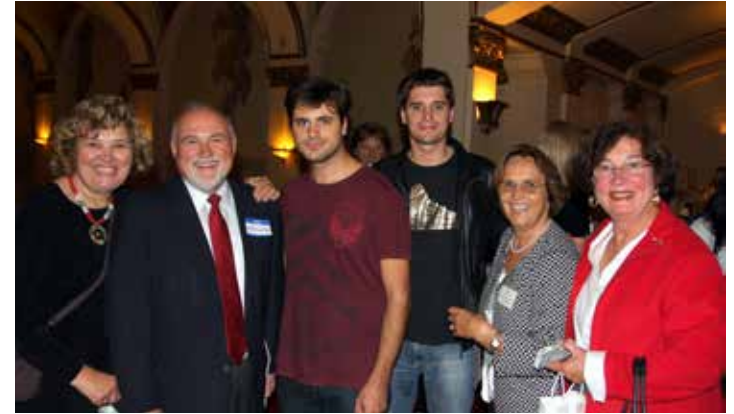
Tony Ujdur, Babara Jagiello, Chip Kumparak, Marina Sertić, Darko Sertić, Mrijana Pavić, Dr. Joe Cindrich, Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Branko Barbir, Nina Jurjević, and Honorable Consul General Ilija Želalić



Ambassador Vice Skračić, 2012



Mr. and Mrs. Laptalo, Chris Novoselich of former rock band, Nirvana, and Chris Allen at a Gala Dinner



Dr. Maria Olujić, Dr. Branimir Šikić, Stjepan Hauser and Luka Šulić of 2CELLOS, Marijana Pavić, and Rosemary Dixon at the benefits concert in Redwood City, 2013



The Cumbelich family with Stjepan Hauser and Luka Šulić 2Cellos CSF benefit concert



*Student volunteer ushers for 2Cello benefit concert 2013
Frome left: Mirna and Matija Skračić, Ana, Ruža and Vinka Radić*



*Above: ushers Ivan Miškić and Miro Zelić
Below: Stjepan Hauser and Luka Šulić with usher Katarina Brekalo*



Images at an Annual Gala Dinner



NEWSLETTERS *1991~present*

Founder and president, Bob Bronzan, kicked off the first few newsletters beginning in 1991 with graphic designer, Jeannie Torres, who coined the first logo. Throughout the years the newsletter has evolved to the present day look, and has enjoyed various talented writers, editors, and graphic designers who all have maintained CSF's spirit of service and integrity.

Browse through a larger collection of newsletters on our website www.croatianscholarship.org, Newsletters tab.



MISSION STATEMENT

Since 1989 the CSF Executive Board expresses its deep and sincere appreciation to its many volunteers, students and to the generous sponsors and contributors who have dedicated many hours, energy, and resources to help over 300 students in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to earn a college education. These young Croatian scholars will be the future leaders as Croatia begins to assume its role on the international stage.

The CSF officers and volunteers donate their energy and service without compensation and rightly deserve our recognition and appreciation. We look to your continued support and generosity as part of the CSF scholarship team.



POWERFUL IMAGES 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 generations,
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 millennium,
through application of science,
freedom and democracy,
the world at large will benefit from,
through the grace of God.

~ Ivan Mirošević



Mark R. Myers