



## **CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND END OF YEAR ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

### **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. CSF is grateful to all of our supporters, without their generosity we would not be able to help so many of our financially deserving Croatian university students.

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

### **GRADUATES**

Over the past 27 years, CSF graduates have earned college degrees from various universities in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. They have received degrees in academic disciplines including medicine, economics, electrical engineering, physics, natural science, law, philosophy, maritime engineering, pharmacy, political science, and other professions. Many of these graduates now hold Doctorate degrees, have become leaders in their professions and are contributing to Croatian Society as a whole.

### **STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM**

We have a record number of students in the program. After rigorous selection criteria, we monitor students' academic progress very closely. Prior to receiving funds each student must submit a transcript showing successful academic progress.

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 completing their Bachelor level work and two additional years Master degree. In 2014, CSF has adjusted to this system and we are now funding scholarships for the duration of their studies, which could be up to five years if a student pursues a Master degree program.

The CSF is pleased to report the student status for 2016

- Students graduated - 12
  - Students accepted into the program -17
  - Total number of students in the program – 66
- Total amount scholarships paid = \$117,255**

CSF-Grgich Endowment Fund, Viticulture and Enology students at the University of Zagreb

- Total amount funded for 2016 is \$8,997, this includes 3 internships and no scholarships.
  - Total amount funded to date is \$52,683 this includes 8 scholarships and 9 internships
- Scholarship Program started in 2013 and Internship added in 2014

### **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's 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 in 2016:

1. **Sacramento Gala Dinner.** On April 9th we held a 17<sup>th</sup> annual Gala Dinner at the Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento, California. We had over two hundred guests in attendance and many traveled long distances to be there. This was a successful fundraiser and we are extremely grateful to the Croatian American Cultural Center for hosting the event for the 17<sup>th</sup> year in the row and for donating all the proceeds for student scholarships. The CSF has established and dedicated 5 student scholarships in the name of CACC using the funds raised at the Gala Dinner.

3. **Bay Area Golf Tournament.** On June 2nd, our 5th Annual Golf Tournament was held at the Crystal Spring Golf Course on the Peninsula. We had about 100 participants, including sports star baseball legend Vida Blue. This was a very successful fundraiser with a record amount funds raised. CSF is grateful to all the organizers, supporters and participants who have contributed to the success of the golf tournament. Three specific scholarships have been awarded in the name of Bay Area Golf Tournament.

4. **Zlatko Vasilj Golf Tournament.** On October 21 Mr. Zlatko Vasilj held another successful golf tournament at the Morgan Creek Golf Course in Roseville, CA. Mr. Vasilj has held these tournaments for the past 16 years and significant part of the proceeds have been donated to CSF. Four scholarships have been awarded in Mr. Zlatko Vasilj's name and an additional scholarship was established in Memory of his son Marko Vasilj.

5. **CSF Sponsors.** We are extremely grateful to each of our sponsors, without their support this organization would be where it is today. We have approximately 25 sponsors that pay full scholarships for their students and many of these individuals support more than one student. Our total sponsorship contribution this year is close to \$100,000 and this is consistent to last year .

6. **Donations.** We try to reach out to individuals, businesses and organizations for donations. This is done through appeal letters, newsletters, web site and other electronic media. Our goal is to expand the donor appeal efforts and we will continue to look for ways to reach out to the potential donors.

#### **CSF BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Executive and Advisory Board for the year 2016 pursued the following activities:

- Updated CSF's By-Laws, Policies and Procedures.
- Committee created to update the 5-year Master Plan and name is changed to CSF Strategic Plan
- Continue to update public information and marketing materials designed to help promote the CSF mission.
- Created a Fundraising Plan.
- Updated the CSF website.
- Completed the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Book
- Continue collaboration with the Office of the Croatian Ministry of Education that helps with the recruitment student applicants.

- On Line Student Application Process was smooth, we received over 200 applications
- We continue to oversee and implement CSF Grgich Endowment Fund and collaborated with the faculty at the University of Zagreb Viticulture and Enology Department.
- Ms. Veronika Skalar is performing duties as the Student Liaison. Veronika also performed duties as an Administrative Assistant for CSF.
- CSF Master Mailing list continues to be maintained and updated by Mrs. Slavica Skracic. She also sends out thank you letters for all donations, designs CSF Newsletters and event invitations and updates our marketing materials.

The Executive and Advisory Board officers for 2016

**Executive Board:**

Marijana Pavic -----President  
 Nina Jurjevic -----Vice- President  
 Marko Buljan -----Secretary  
 Branko Barbir-----Co-Treasurer  
 Barbara Jagiello-----Co-Treasurer  
 Chip Kumparak -----Member At Large  
 Rosemary Dixon----- Member At Large  
 Zora Ljoljic ----- Member at Large

**Advisory Board:**

Gary Allen	
Joseph Cindrich, Ph.D	Matt Darko Sertić
William Cumbelich	Anthony Ujdur
Vera Duplančić	Marina Sertić
Zeljko Pavić	Vesna Brekalo
Alan Saračević	Robert Wilson

**Student Liason and Administrative Support:**

Veronika Skalar - Student Liaison  
 Slavica Skračić - CSF Graphics, Marketing, Mailing List, Thank You Letters

The CSF leadership expresses its sincere THANK YOU to all sponsors, benefactors, contributors, and volunteers.

For more information please visit CSF web site at: [croatianscholarship.org](http://croatianscholarship.org)

Send us an email at: [csfinformation@gmail.com](mailto:csfinformation@gmail.com).

Call us:

CSF President, Marijana Pavic - 530 392 2467 or  
 CSF Secretary, Marko Buljan - 650 867 4674

Contact us via regular mail: CSF PO Box 290 San Ramon, CA 94583

Respectfully submitted by:  
 Marijana Pavić, CSF President