



# Croatian Scholarship Fund

DEVELOPING LEADERS THROUGH EDUCATION

## CSF's 30 Years of Success!

This year, CSF is celebrating 30 years of existence and continued success. We currently have a record number of students in the program and have much to be proud of. We have collectively made a difference in hundreds of young Croatian students who have worked hard to earn a college education. CSF provides the financial assistance needed to attend university. Many of our graduates are now leaders in their chosen professions making strides to improve Croatia and its future.

There are several reasons CSF has achieved such success. First, its founders and board members established a simple framework at the time of its inception, and this structure has proven strong throughout the years. Second, CSF's generous sponsors and donors have been consistent throughout the years with their support and interest in CSF's program.

Third, CSF established and has maintained an all volunteer board. Fourth, it set up a sponsorship program whereby sponsors support a student, or group of students, through the duration of their academic endeavors. This brought about many close and lasting relationships between sponsors and students.

Finally, CSF monitors its scholarship students with frequent communications, follow-up, and evaluations overseen by our student liaison. Of course, the most important part of CSF are the students. It is truly amazing how many bright and talented young men and women apply each year to become part of CSF. It is an honor and a privilege to support such deserving and wonderful people.

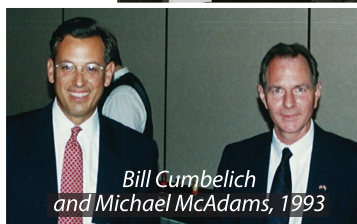
CSF has included a few nostalgic photos for you to enjoy. 🇨🇷



Bishop Puljić and Bob Bronzan, 1992



Distinguished Croatian-American Award recipients, 1995



Bill Cumbelich and Michael McAdams, 1993



Ambassador Petar Jarčević, Dr. Cindrich, Andy Viscovich, Tony Ujdur, Branko Barbir, 1994



CSF Board, 2013



Mike Grgich



SIDRO, 2002



Amb. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, 2011



Vice Vukov, 2001



Mate Bulić, 1999



Tajči, 2013



CSF's 25th Anniversary celebration in Zagreb, 2014



2CELLOS, 2012





## CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

P.O. Box 290  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
[www.croatianscholarship.org](http://www.croatianscholarship.org)

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**Joe Stark**

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**Branko Barbir**

**Bob Bronzan**

**George Kumparak**

**Tony Ujdur**

*The Croatian Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization that provides university scholarships to students in Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina.*

## President's Message

*Once again, it has been another rewarding and successful year for CSF. I love this organization. I love it for its noble mission, the students we help, and the wonderful people I meet who make it possible.*

*Without your support, CSF would not be here and would not be celebrating its 30th anniversary. We can never thank you enough for your selfless generosity towards CSF and the amazing young people we help. As an organization, we work tirelessly to keep our costs down so your generous donations pass through to the students.*

*We are very proud of our long-term track record of more than 90% of all donations going directly to the students.*

*My personal mission is to increase the size of the CSF family by finding more people who are interested in working with and supporting this wonderful organization. I encourage you to reach out directly to me either by telephone or email to discuss how you can help us to continue the CSF story. Please reach out to me at [gary@croatianscholarship.org](mailto:gary@croatianscholarship.org) or 916.436.8331.*

*~ Gary Allen  
President*



## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner in Sacramento



Mike Župan receives a CSF Award

On April 27, 2019, our supporters, family and friends again met at the Croatian-American Cultural Center ("CACC") for an evening of dinner, dancing and entertainment. It was a remarkable event with Hojsak & Novosel providing beautiful renditions of our favorite music. Other entertainment included performances by Skalinada Ensemble, Koraci Folklore Ensemble and Klapa Zora. We cannot thank each of these performers enough for transporting us back to our favorite place with all the memories and joy.

It was a night of celebration and gratitude. Dr. Božo Skoko, a CSF luminary and a prior CSF scholarship recipient, was the



Dr. Božo Skoko







keynote speaker. Dr. Skoko is a professor at the University of Zagreb, the author of numerous books on Croatia and holds many other accomplishments too numerous to list here. He did a great job of reminding us of the far-reaching impact of CSF's work on so many deserving young Croatians.

Awards were presented to CACC, and specifically to Mike Župan for always being there for us. Mike has quietly and effortlessly made each of our dinners a memorable success. This dinner marked the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CSF and was CSF's 20<sup>th</sup> dinner hosted by CACC. We are grateful beyond measure to the CACC Board and the membership for their unwavering support.

CSF remembered its founders, some of whom are no longer with us. Family members graciously accepted awards on behalf of their loved ones and honor them by continuing their support of CSF. We will never forget the selflessness and vision of Bob Bronzan, Tony Ujdur, George Kumparak and Branko Barbir. They have made CSF what it is today.

The food and service were superb and was followed by a very successful auction. Again, we wish to thank our supporters who have been so exceedingly generous with their contributions. The bidding was lively and the proceeds greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for attending and for your support, donations and hard work. Don't forget next year's gala celebration will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. ■

~ By Barbara Jagiello

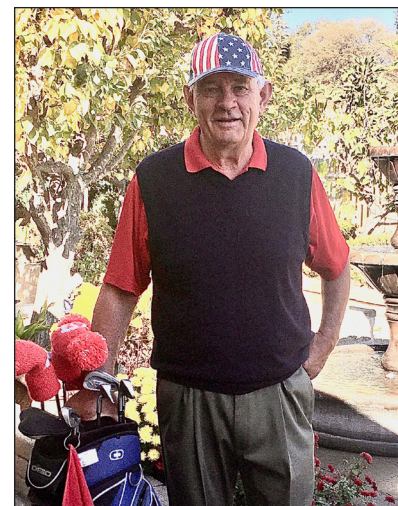
On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 "Big Joe" (Zlatko Vasilj) held yet another successful golf tournament at Morgan Creek Golf Club in Roseville, California. On this 29<sup>th</sup> tournament, close to 90 players were in attendance and enjoyed the dinner that followed. Joe's famous raffles and prizes continue to be the highlight of the evening.

Working on the tournament is a huge job for Zlatko, and it is difficult to attract players year after year. However with the help of his nephews, Dennis and Nick, they continue to attract players, have fun and hold a successful fundraiser. For the past 13 years Zlatko has donated the proceeds from the tournament to Croatian Scholarship Fund. We are honored and grateful for this donation, which provide scholarships to number of students in memory of Marko Vasilj.

This is a wonderful tribute to Zlatko's late son Marko, who was instrumental in starting the tournament, along with his dad, close to three decades ago.

Our beloved "Big Joe" works tirelessly to benefit those who need it the most, thank you for your big heart. ■

~ By Marijana Pavić



*Zlatko (Joe) Vasilj*

## *Sponsors Meet with Their Students*

One of the benefits of sponsoring a student is that sponsors get to know them and often establish lasting friendships. Two of our sponsors while visiting Croatia this summer met with their students:

Dr. Bodor and his wife Jackie met with their current student Kristina Juričić. She is a second year student majoring in mathematics at the University of Split. Dr. David Kordiĉ, who graduated two years ago from medical school in Mostar also joined them.



*Dr. David Kordiĉ, Kristina Juričić, Jackie and Dr. Bodor*

Mr. and Mrs Robert and Celia Sertich met their student Maja Loboreĉ who is a second year student studying Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zagreb. ■



*Robert Sertich, Maja Loboreĉ and Celia Sertich*



**Ivan Kalić**

*University: Zagreb  
Major: Natural Sciences  
& Mathematics  
Sponsor: Joanne Arellanes-  
Ivanovich*



**Ana Marija Koritnik**

*University: Zagreb  
Major: Education  
& Rehabilitation  
Sponsor: CACC*



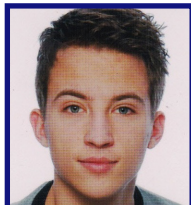
**Matea Laden**

*University: Split  
Major: Law  
Sponsor: Croatian Radio, NY*



**Monika Majstorović**

*University: Zagreb  
Major: Natural Sciences  
& Mathematics  
Sponsor: Ms. Tatjana Grgich*



**Karlo Mak**

*University: Zagreb  
Major: Philosophy, History  
& Geography  
Sponsor: Zeljko Mikić*



**Lucija Mandić**

*University: Zagreb  
Major: Economics  
Sponsor: Marko Vasilj  
Memorial*



**Marina Mišković**

*University: Zagreb  
Major: Medicine  
Sponsor: George Kumparak  
Memorial*



**Tvrtko Pleić**

*University: Zagreb  
Major: Philosophy  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko  
& Nicole Barle*



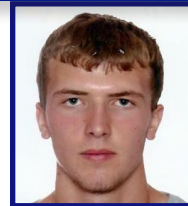
**Maja Sabol**

*University: Zagreb  
Major: Economics  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs.  
John & Lydia Vidovich*



**Ivan Školka**

*University: Osijek  
Major: Medicine  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs.  
Darko & Marina Sertić*



**Josip Živković**

*University: Zagreb  
Major: Medicine  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs.  
Stanko & Nicole Barle*

## 2019 Scholarship Recipients

We have a total of 75 students in the program, including 20 new students accepted for the 2019/2020 academic year. This record number would not be possible without our generous sponsors that fund student scholarships, including many who sponsor multiple students. Words simply cannot express the deep gratitude CSF and the students have for each of our sponsors.

We are pleased to share with you our new students, along with a sample student profile, to show how amazing these students are. In spite of life challenges and obstacles, they have excelled academically and demonstrated leadership, and are involved in their community and deserving of CSF scholarships.

### A few profiles of CSF newly selected students

#### Valentina Kišan

Valentina lives in Gornji Desinec, near Zagreb, with her unemployed mother, 16-year old brother and her grandmother. In September 2018 the family experienced a deep tragedy. Her father suffered a major stroke and did not survive.

Valentina was a straight-A student in high school. She demonstrated strong leadership qualities in school and volunteer work. She competed and won top awards in school and County competitions in Croatian language, biology and German language.

#### Mihaela Vlahović

Mihaela lives in Gornja Stubica, near Zagreb, with her parents and five brothers. Her father is a war veteran and works as a driver, mother is unemployed. All five brothers are attending school; two are at university, one in high school and two in elementary school.

Mihaela was a straight-A student in high school. She competed in number of local and County competitions in biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics and Croatian language. She often won 2nd place in these competitions. In 2015 and 2016, Mihaela was Croatia's top winner in Martial Arts.

#### Antonio Novak

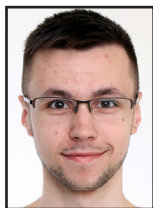
Antonio lives in Selnici with his parents and three sisters. His younger sister has special needs. His father works and mother is a housewife. At early age Antonio developed a love for geography. He graduated from high school with honors and was involved in national competitions in geography, mathematics, chemistry, English and Croatian language. He is active in his church and volunteers in a County Down Syndrome organization.

#### Karla Buhovac

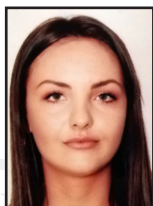
Karla lives in Mostar, Bosna & Hercegovina with her parents, younger sister age 15 and two brothers ages 10 and 7. While both parents work, it is a financial struggle for them given the family size and limited income.



# 2019 CSF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Mario Petar Bišćan**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
and Naval Architecture  
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić



**Gloria Bojo**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Dentistry  
Sponsor: Mrs. Rosemary Dixon



**Karla Buhovac**  
University: Mostar  
Major: Medicine  
Sponsor: Mrs. Đurdica Nenadić



**Filip Cindrić**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Electrical Engineering,  
Computing & Info Technology  
Sponsor: Drs. Zdenka Delalić  
& Glenn Boseman



**Goran Dabić**  
University: Osijek  
Major: Medicine  
Sponsor: Judge Edward Damich



**Marica Golemac**  
University: Mostar  
Major: Mechanical Engineering,  
Computing and Electrical  
Engineering  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. John  
& Lydia Vidovich



**Kristijan Jaslić**  
University: Croatia Catholic  
University of Zagreb  
Major: Communication Studies  
Sponsor: Croatian Radio, NY



**Valentina Kišan**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Education and  
Rehabilitation, Speech Therapy  
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić



**Ivo Kokić**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Philosophy & History  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko  
& Nicole Barle



**Ana Koprek**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Business  
Management & Economics  
Sponsor: Nicole & Stanko Barle



**Karla Gradečak  
Kukina**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Natural Sciences  
& Mathematics  
Sponsor: Ms. Ivana Stolnik



**Lorenzo Lisica**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Physics Research  
Sponsor: Mr. Robert Spretnak



**Ivana Ljubas**  
University: Mostar  
Major: Philosophy, English &  
Literature  
Sponsor: Alan Unger Foundation



**Magdalena Mikić**  
University: Osijek  
Major: Mathematics  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. John  
& Lydia Vidovich



**Anamarija Nosić**  
University: Mostar  
Major: Speech Therapy  
Sponsor: Marko Vasilj  
Memorial



**Antonio Novak**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Natural Sciences  
& Mathematics  
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić



**Martina  
Salamunović**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Medicine  
Sponsor: Ms. Tatjana Grgich



**Mihaela Vlahović**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Physics Research  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs.  
Stanko & Nicole Barle



**Hrvoje Vojvodić**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Chemical  
Engineering & Technology  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Darko  
& Marina Sertić



**Marija Vrkić**  
University: Zagreb  
Major: Natural Sciences  
& Mathematics  
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. John  
& Lydia Vidovich



Karla was an excellent student in high school and achieved numerous awards. She was involved in student council and competed successfully in sports. She plays on Croatian woman's volleyball team in Bi H; they won the first place in first league and are currently in premier league in BiH. Since childhood, Karla has been actively involved in her local church.

## Goran Dabić

Goran lives in Matij, a small village in Bosnia & Herzegovina. His family lives on limited income, which makes it difficult to finance Goran's

college education. His father is retired and mother works as a housecleaner.

Goran was an outstanding student; he received straight-A's in all four years of high school. He achieved many top rankings in school, local and County competitions, especially in mathematics. Goran also plays and competes in chess. This year he won first place in the County chess tournament.



This year, we have 11 proud graduates. Below are some of their comments expressing how grateful they are to CSF and their sponsors. This is a heartwarming reminder and a powerful motivator to continue our great work. The CSF program has truly made a difference in these students' lives.



Graduation photo with family

a great motivator to start my work at the university. The scholarship was a huge help and financial relief for my parents.

#### Ivan Školka

*This scholarship secured my school and living expenses while at the university. I was extremely grateful and excited to receive your acceptance letter in summer of 2013, informing me that I was one of your scholarship recipients. This was a delightful surprise and*



Graduation photo

#### Lucija Madić

*Hrvatska školska zaklada mi je uveliko olakšao studiranje, na način da mi je umanjena briga za financiranje studija, a samim time smanjena potreba za studentskim poslovima tijekom godina studiranja. Zahvaljujući tome imala sam priliku posvetiti sve svom školovanju i uključiti se u brojne izvannastavne aktivnosti koje su dodatno poboljšale moje vještine. Hvala još jednom od mene i mojih roditelja za nesebičnu brigu i potporu svih ovih godina. Želim vam sreću*

*u nastavku djelovanja udruge, s nadom da ćemo svi zajedno uživati plodove vašeg dobra.*

#### Marina Mišković

*Od srca se zahvaljujem svojem sponzoru, gospodji Joan Kumparak, Vama i svima koji sudjeluju u radu Hrvatske Školske Zaklade! Financijska pomoć koja je ovim putem pružena meni i mojoj obitelji pomogla mi je da ostvarim svoj cilj. Završila sam fakultet koji sam željela i sada je na redu rad i nastavak školovanja - specijalizacija.*

#### Josip Živković

*Za Zakladu mogu reći samo riječi hvale jer se samo tim riječima ona može opisati. Bez pomoći Zaklade studiranje bi mi bilo financijski vrlo teško, gotovo neizvedivo. Moram naglasiti da je moj studij trajao ukupno 6 godina, i da me Zaklada stipendirala svih tih godina, a tu sam najviše i neizmerno zahvalan Stanku i Nicole Barle, koji su bili moji pokrovitelji i koji su me bodrili i davali moralnu podršku tijekom svih ovih godina. I dalje se čujem s njima. Bez njih i Zaklade moje studiranje bilo bi puno, puno teže.*



Family graduation photo with parents and brothers

#### Matea Ladan

*Five years ago I found out about you and your work. I applied to your scholarship, you've chosen me and .... From that moment I knew I got the chance to do something with my future. I knew that I could make my parents and myself proud, that I could be somebody. In times that were hopeless for me and my family, you showed me that miracles are real and that there are still good people in world who are doing good things for others.... There are no words that could ever express the hope you brought in our lives. Because, sometimes it doesn't matter how smart you are or how much you work hard, you just need somebody to show to you that they believe in you and that you are capable to do something good for your future. The belief in young people that You are showing to the world is one of the many things that are fascinating me about You.*

*Your work needs to be an example to every living person how humanity works and what we should do for each other. ... in name of my family and myself, ... Thanks to each one of you and your work and sacrifice. I got my masters degree and I am half way through life where dreams do come true .... Learning from Your example, I will help others the way You helped me. I will believe in others the way You believed in me.*

*Thank You! And may God bless all of You and Your families for all the goodness you spread.*

### CSF–Miljenko Grgich Endowment Fund

This year, we have six students in the program, four receiving scholarships and two selected for our prestigious Internship Program – Darija Karakas and Marta Siveć. All six are attending University of Zagreb Masters level Viticulture and Enology Program.

Students selected for Internship are about to graduate and will come to the United States for a three-month internship experience at Napa or Sonoma wineries during harvest season. This year, two interns came to the Grgich Hills Winery in Napa. We are pleased to share their comments on their internship experience.

#### Grgich Interns Comments:

*My internship at Grgich Hills Estate has been one of the best experiences so far. I've learned so much and gained valuable experience for my future job in this field. Also, I had a pleasure of meeting Mr. Miljenko Grgich who made this happen for us, he truly is an amazing man!*



Marta Siveć, Miljenko Grgich and Darija Karakas

*I am glad that I was able to come here and experience harvest in beautiful Napa Valley. This internship provided me with greater knowledge and understanding of winemaking but also taught me how to work well in a team. Furthermore, I am very grateful for all the people I got to meet on this journey who were willing to share*



*their knowledge with me and who also became very good friends of mine!*

~ Darija Karakas

*Working in a winery such as Grgich Hills Estate is an exceptional honor for me. This is a great opportunity to gain new knowledge and use existing ones. I believe this experience will mean a lot to me in my career because I have learned a lot and acquired new knowledge.*

~ Marta Siveć

### Matija Lesković – PhD Student

One of Miljenko Grgich Endowment Program's goals is to support academic excellence and scholarly work in the wine industry in Croatia. Last year, CSF provided financial support to Mr. Matija Lesković to start his doctorate studies in enology research at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. A few years ago, we stepped in again and funded his internship at a winery in Napa Valley. We are very pleased that Mr. Lesković is excelling in his research at Stellenbosch and promoting Croatian wines in South Africa.

*This is a sample of what has been written about Mr. Lesković's work:*



### Croatian Student Organizes Tasting of His Motherland's Wines

"The first-ever wine tasting event of Croatian wines in South Africa was held at Stellenbosch University's Department of Viticulture and Oenology last week. The evening was made possible through the initiative of Matija Lesković a Croatian student who has been working towards his doctorate in oenology at Stellenbosch University since mid-2018.

Croatian wines were tasted, while Lesković also gave an overview of the country itself and grape varieties being grown.

***Mr. Lesković shared with us that major South African importers and wine distributors are now considering importing Croatian wines to South Africa, which will be the first time in history."***



## Medical Students internship at Cleveland Medical Center

This February, the Croatian community lost one of its best, Mr. Sveto Olujić. He was a generous and selfless man loved by all who knew him. We are very saddened by this loss. The family requested donations to the Croatian Scholarship Fund in lieu of flowers. They have asked that the funds be used to help medical students in Croatia. To that end, CSF has collaborated with the American Association of Croatian Professionals (ACAP) and the world-famous Cleveland Clinic Medical Center – specifically Dr. Mario Skugor and Dr. Steven Pavletić as well as the University of Zagreb Medical School.

In Sveto's memory, two medical students from University of Zagreb Medical School were selected and interned at the Cleveland Clinic Medical Center this past summer. Antun Zvonimir Kovać interned in the Cardiovascular Medicine Department and Ana Smajo in the Rheumatic & Immunology Disease Department.

Should funds become available as a result of this project, it may serve as a model for future collaboration and internship experiences for other students attending the University of Zagreb Medical School.

We are pleased to share comments on the students' internship experiences:

**Ana Smajo** - *I am thankful for the opportunity that the staff, doctors and the fund have provided me. My time in the exchange program has been not only highly educational, but also very eye-opening and rewarding. This experience has taught me a great deal about American medical education, healthcare, research, innovation, and culture. I hope to use what I learned to inform my future career in medicine and potentially collaborate with American professionals.*

**Antun Zvonimir Kovać** - *I achieved my goal of getting hands-on experience and practice. I renewed and widened my knowledge and applied it in clinical rounds and academic discussion. I have met a lot of interesting people and exchanged experiences with the medical colleagues. This has all helped in my formation as a young doctor.*





Thank you for **Shopping smile.amazon.com** and supporting **Croatian Scholarship Fund!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### ✓ Mark your Calendar

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – CSF Gala Dinner  
sponsored by Croatian American  
Cultural Center in Sacramento.

### ✓ CSF's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament:

Will be held in April/May 2020, please check  
CSF Web site and Facebook for updates on Golf  
Tournament.

## 2019 Event Sponsors & Donors ~ Thank you!

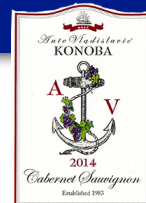


Marko B. Zaninovich Family



Margarita Weersing

Jack Nowel



Gala 2019 photos, continued from pg 2...



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT – CSF Administrative Assistant

CSF is seeking to hire an Administrative Assistant. Part time 15-20 hrs per week with flexible hours. All work can be done from home. If you are interested and hold strong computer and communication skills, please contact us at [info@croatianscholarship.org](mailto:info@croatianscholarship.org)



## Fund RAISING DRIVE

CSF is a non-political, non-profit 503(c) organization and all contributions are tax-deductible. Now you can now send your donation/scholarship payments utilizing Zelle (bank to bank fund transfer). **Please take a moment to fill out this response card.**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CSF CONTRIBUTOR - Any Amount                          | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR - 1 Full Scholarship: \$2,000              | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPT-A-STUDENT/SPONSOR - 3 Year Scholarship: \$6,000 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CSF ENDOWMENT FUND - Permanent Fund: Any Amount       | \$ _____ |

Payment Options: ☐ Monthly ☐ Bi-annually ☐ Annually

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Fund Transfer/Zelle ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE SEND TO:

Croatian Scholarship Fund  
PO Box 290, San Ramon, CA 94583

### For more information please call:

Gary Allen at: **916.436.8331**

Marijana Pavic at: **530.392-2467**

email: [info@croatianscholarship.org](mailto:info@croatianscholarship.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your contribution to CSF!**