



Croatian Scholarship Fund

DEVELOPING LEADERS THROUGH EDUCATION

CSF receives two new Endowment Funds

We are grateful to Mr. Damir Rados and Tony Ujdur for establishing Endowment Funds with CSF. The funds will provide additional scholarships to academically gifted and financially deserving students attending universities in Croatia and Bosnia & Hercegovina and these funds will continue in perpetuity.

Mr. Damir Radoš:

Dragica Krog Radoš Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. Damir Radoš in the memory of his deceased mother Mrs. Dragica Krog Radoš who was born in Zagreb, Croatia and died at the age of 97 in Burlingame.

Dragica began performing at an early age at the Croatian National Theatre filling a need for children's roles in operas and operettas and singing in children's choir. She continued her career with emphasis on operettas and drama acting until the events of the WWII ended her professional career, causing her to leave Zagreb and eventually settle in California.

Dragica loved her homeland and continued to promote her native Croatia before, during and after the Liberation War. She continued with philanthropic work in the area of theatre and drama including children of war. Fifty years after leaving Croatia, she was able to return to her beloved Zagreb, which she visited yearly until the age of 94. The Dragica Krog Radoš Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships to students majoring in Theatre Arts and Music Academy at the University of Zagreb. CSF is honored and grateful to Mr. Radoš for his generous donation.

Mr. Tony Ujdur Endowment:

Tony was one of the CSF founders and contributed to the success and longevity of the organization for 30 years. He was involved in CSF leadership, served on the Executive and Advisory Boards, and contributed generously with financial support. He started sponsoring students from the

Sponsors tell what motivates them to sponsor students

My parents and grandparents instilled in me a love of our old homeland. Croatia has emerged from war and is facing many challenges, not the least of which were the recent earthquakes. I am pleased to do my part to further the education of Croatian youth, and I am particularly interested in encouraging young people to stay in Croatia. The medical student that I sponsor, Goran Dabić, communicates with me regularly. He is doing very well and will graduate soon. For me this is very gratifying.

~ *Judge Edward Damich, sponsor since 2018*

The value of higher education is priceless. Our deserving CSF students are grateful for the financial assistance they receive from us. I was happy to meet with a past student in August 2022 who is now happily married with 2 children. She has a Masters degree in Psychology and has worked in Human Resources at several banks in Zagreb.



Lydia with her past student, Dragica Pejazić and family, Summer 2022

~ *Lydia Vidovich, sponsor since 2003*

I choose to assist with a Croatian student's higher education as a way to honor my Croatian heritage. Growing up, when I said that I was Croatian, the response was: "Croatian? What's that?" Now, everybody knows Croatia (or has visited there recently!), whether from pictures of the beautiful scenery, or from the over-achieving football team, and I am happy to do my small part to honor the land of my grandparents.

~ *Bob Spretnak, sponsor since 2017*

What motivates us to donate is knowing that it is helping the future, the future of our homeland and our people. It is also nice, when visiting Croatia, to be able to visit and have

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Croatian Scholarship Current Sponsors



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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.

The success of the CSF program would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors. We are grateful that they continue to finance student scholarships year after year and many sponsor more than one student. They stay in regular contact with their students, some meet with them when they visit Croatia and often mentor them for which students are deeply grateful.

We are honored to share the names of our current sponsors:

Dr. & Mrs. Nebojša & Nevenka Avdalović

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Tony Ujdur Endowment Scholarship Fund

Mrs. & Mrs. John and Lydia Vidovich

Mr. & Mrs. Walt & Linda Wismar

Mile Župan Memorial



*The Croatian Scholarship Fund Board wishes you and your family
a Blessed Christmas and a Safe and Healthy New Year*

Sretan i Blagosavljen Božić i Nova Godina!



Letter from a Graduate



Josip Vlaić, MD, Children's Hospital, Zagreb

I was born on September 11, 1982 in Šibenik. I lived in Drniš, but because of the war, I went to Split and then to Zagreb. I entered the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zagreb in 2001, and then received a CSF scholarship. Even though it was a long time ago, I remember being happy because that was when I bought my first computer. I graduated from

university in 2007, and specialized in orthopedics at the Zagreb Children's Disease Clinic in 2015. Since then, I have been working as a doctor in the department of orthopedics.

As a pediatric orthopedist, I work with the smallest to older children, and my job offers me many opportunities to experience someone's happiness, but unfortunately sometimes also sadness. Therefore, the work can sometimes be exhausting because it requires complete commitment to small patients. Additionally, I acquired knowledge about diseases and injuries of children's and adolescent's knees, ... and I got my doctorate in the field of reconstruction of knee ligaments. I am involved in the work of several professional associations of doctors, and I actively participate in numerous domestic and international orthopedic symposia and congresses.

On a personal level, my wish is to have a peaceful and fulfilling life that includes enough time for my family with whom I share all my happiness. ■

~Josip Vlaić M.D.

Continuing Student Comments:

Dear Mr. Pavić,

I hope you and your family are well. Summer vacation is approaching, the last exams are being completed, and I am slowly bringing this academic year to an end. I look forward to the summer holidays, returning home, hanging out with family and friends, and simply enjoying the summer.

Once again, I would like to express my deep gratitude to you for everything you have done for us, provided us with support and greatly facilitated the already demanding and thorny path through the first academic year.

I wish you all the best!

~ Filip Kupreškić

Dear Mr. Alan,

I am writing You to inform you that I have successfully finished my third year of studies at English language and literature in Mostar. My bachelor's thesis defence has passed successfully, and with pride and joy, I am informing you that my final grade is excellent. I am continuing my studies at the same university, in Mostar, and I am excited about this new chapter of my life.

The enrollment is happening later, after all the September exams are done at the faculty, so right now I am working part-time in my hometown and spending precious time with my closest family and friends.

Thank You deeply for being a part of my journey. In this e-mail, I am attaching a picture of myself from the day of the defense: third year graduation.

With love and respect,

~ Ivana Ljubas



Ivana Ljubas

New Endowments continued from front page:

beginning and continued until he passed away in 2019. Tony often sponsored up to 10 students at a time. He also gave cash grants to help plan for the future with emphasis on expanding CSF.

The Tony Ujdur Endowment continues to provide scholarships for students a in our regular program after his passing. CSF is committed to honor Tony's wishes and is deeply grateful for his generosity. His legacy will continue, and his love for Croatia will benefit many deserving Croatian university students, especially those with limited financial means!

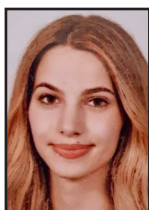
We are also pleased to announce that the Mr. Miljenko Grgich Endowment Program has been in existence for eleven years now. This program is thriving and has helped numerous students majoring in the Viticulture and Enology program at the University of Zagreb. Please read the 'Miljenko Grgich Endowment Program' section for more details.

If you are interested in establishing an Endowment Program with CSF please contact call us at 530-392-2467 or email info@croatianscholarship.org

2021 CSF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Lucia Andročec
University of Zagreb
Major: Information Technology
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić



Ema Hace
University of Zagreb
Major: Science
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Pete and Pam Bogdanović



Korina Opančar
University of Mostar
Major: Croatian literature
Sponsor: Tony Ujdur Memorial



Arsen Apolloni
University of Split
Major: Law
Sponsor: Dr. Zdenka Delalić and Dr. Glenn Boseman



Ruža Jurić
University of Split
Major: Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
Sponsor: Tony Ujdur Memorial



Marija Orlović
University of Zagreb
Major: Logopedia
Sponsor: Tony Ujdur Memorial



Valentina Car
University of Rijeka
Major: Health Science
Sponsor: Mrs. Ivana Stolnik



Donna Karan
University of Rjeka
Major: Medicine
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko and Nicole Barle



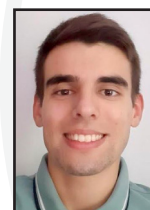
Marija Perković
University of Split
Major: Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Bill and Sara Cumbelich



Češić Iva
University of Zagreb
Major: Pharmacy/Biochemistry
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko & Nicole Barle



Edi Kovač
University of Osijek
Major: Chemistry
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko & Nicole Barle



Damir Rozić
University of Mostar
Major: Civil Engineering
Sponsor: Tony Ujdur Memorial



Marija Čurić
University of Sarajevo
Major: Health Science
Sponsor: Tony Ujdur Memorial



Elza Lakušić
University of Zagreb
Major: Medicine
Sponsor: Ms. Joan Nelson



Lucija Šarčević
University of Zagreb
Major: Economy
Sponsor: Tony Ujdur Memorial



Krešimir Đikić
University of Split
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Željko and Zdenka Urban



Anna Levanat
University of Zagreb
Major: Philosophy
Sponsor: Mr. Alan Unger Foundation



Marta Stanušić
University of Osijek
Major: Philosophy
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić



Manuel Fijan
University of Zagreb
Major: Computer Science
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić



Ema Meštrović
University of Zagreb
Major: Veterinary
Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić



Pere Šumanović
University of Split
Major: Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
Sponsor: Tony Ujdur Memorial



Martina Tolo
University of Zagreb
Major: Medicine
Sponsor: Mrs. Durdica Nenadić,
In Memory of Dr. Ivan Nenadić



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University of Zagreb
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Lara Vukelić
University of Zagreb
Major: Computer Science
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko and
Nicole Barle



Marija Zubčić
University of Zadar
Major: Nursing
Sponsor: Tony Ujdur Memorial

New Student Report

Due to the overwhelming support of our donors, sponsors and endowments, CSF was able to accept 26 new students into the program for the 2022/23 academic year. This makes a total of 99 students in the program. This is a large number and keeps our Student Liaison, Veronika Skalar, very busy. She communicates with each student on a regular basis and closely monitors their academic record before scholarship payments are issued to them.

We would like to share a few excerpts taken from newly elected student applications.

My mother passed away in 2016 after a long and serious illness. Since then, we have been living in different ways, and dad is trying to provide us with the best possible life. My sister is a student at the legal faculty of the University of Zagreb, and my brother is a student at the Čakovač Technical School. ■■

~ **Lucia Andročec**

This year I won first place in the county competition in Latin and first place in the county competition in the Greek language, and I again got the opportunity to participate in the national competitions. I won second place at the state competition in Latin and second place at the state competition in the Greek language. I was the only competitor who competed in both languages and from both languages won one of the first places in the national competition. ■■

~ **Arsen Apolloni**

It is biggest wish is to enroll in the Faculty of Medicine this year and I am putting maximum my effort into preparing for the state graduation exams. Your financial help would help me a lot because of the poor financial situation of the family. I hope for a positive outcome and that I will be able to get your scholarship. ■■

~ **Donna Karan**

To a large extent, my family lives from agriculture because our father's salary would not be enough for a solid life. The family is doing everything to provide me with a quality and safe education, in which your scholarship would greatly help me. As a high school graduate with a creative soul, I went to the fine arts competition, and then to Lidran. I serve my religious community as a minister, animator, reader and a person who helps the nun in decorating and cleaning. I like to say that I am a cheerful and open-minded person, ready to help, but also to ask for help. I believe that I still have to develop as a person because growth takes a lifetime. Your scholarship would greatly help me in my daily growth and education. ■■

~ **Edi Kovač**

I live in a large family, father, mother and four of us children, and we are all attending school. We all passed with excellent results and received certificates of appreciation. The father is the only one currently employed with a salary of HRK 1,161 per month. This is not enough for the many needs of us four students, of which three go to school outside in another town. ■■

~ **Marija Zubčić**

GRADUATES 2022

This year eight students graduated and received Masters level degrees from their perspective universities in Croatia and Bosnia and Hercegovina. Three medical students were extended for an additional year, It takes six years to complete a Medical school in Croatia and our generous sponsors always agree to pay for the extra year. We wish our graduates all the success in their chosen careers.

Dominik Čubelić

Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. John and Lydia Vidovich

Major: Computer Science

Marko Galić

Sponsor: Mr. Alan Unger Foundation

Major: Psychology

Anton Jakovčić

Sponsor: Mr. Tomislav Kundić

Major: Medicine

Matej Luburić

Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Pete and Pam Bogdanović

Major: Computer Science

Nikolina Marković

Sponsor: CSF

Major: Health Science

Anamarija Matijević

Sponsor: NACC

Major: Nutrition

Ivica Matošević

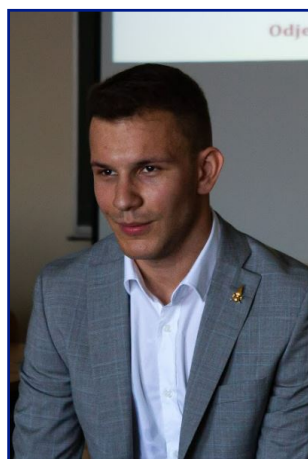
Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko and Nicole Barle

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Luka Rašković

Sponsor: Mr. & Mrs. Stanko and Nicole Barle

Major: Medicine



Marko Galić



Luka Rašković

and support I felt as a CSF scholarship holder quickly turned into pride that filled me and motivated me every day to do everything I do to the best of my ability and always do my best, feeling the responsibility to justify the trust shown.

I believe that all participation in conferences, publication of two articles, publication of two chapters in books; as well as the first and third place in her age category at the Croatian Triathlon Championship, justified the trust shown.

I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for their support during the past five years of study. ■

- Marko Galić

For me, receiving a scholarship from CSF meant having almost financial independence in terms of minor daily expenses, which significantly helped my parents in the turbulent times they were and still are. I can't ignore the fact that CSF approves a scholarship during the entire course of study (provided the conditions are met), which is why I didn't have to worry again every year whether I would get one of the scholarships in Croatia.

In addition to the financial aspect, this scholarship helped me to do my best every day and not give up on the set goal in order to justify the trust of CSF. Every setback during my studies meant that I had to pick myself up and keep going, and it was like that until the very end. Especially with the demanding study of medicine.

Equally important to me was communication with the Barle family, with whom I shared all the ups and downs and for whom I felt great gratitude and responsibility. I believe that no scholarship in Croatia has a pronounced personal aspect that always lets the student know that one family and the entire foundation is behind him, where there is two-way communication and mutual care and gratitude.

All of this had a significant impact on my studies and on me personally, and I cannot describe in words how grateful I am to the Croatian School Foundation and the Barle family. ■

- Luka Rašković

CSF helped me a lot financially, but I would say also on a human level as well, because it showed me that there are people who selflessly care about the development of those who do not yet have opportunities, but who have potential. Encouraged by that experience, I myself hope to contribute in that way one day. ■

- Anton Jakovčić

Graduate Comments

Being a CSF scholarship holder for the past five years has been a great honor, pride, and responsibility for me. An honor because I was recognized as a promising young person who was at the beginning of his higher education - at the very beginning of a new life chapter, I received a huge wind at my back in the form of receiving a scholarship and establishing contacts with people at CSF. The recognition

I have always loved school. In addition to regular primary and secondary school education, I also completed primary and secondary music school. College was another step up and a great desire to continue learning and progressing. In order to achieve this, I needed additional financial assistance. CSF, by providing me with a scholarship for 5 years of my college education, provided me with financial security and thus enabled me to devote myself to learning and progress. Without this scholarship, my student life would have been much more difficult and uncertain. Thanks to the CSF scholarship, during these 5 years of schooling, my strength and will was focused on acquiring new knowledge and skills. I am immensely grateful to CSF for everything. I am happy because I was part of this story. I hope you will never tire of doing good. ■

- Anamarija Matijević

CSF literally changed my life in the sense that in moments of extreme concern about the continuation of my life and education after high school. It is not easy to grow up in a small town with a modest income and to go to college in one of the larger cities in Croatia, and for me it would have been practically impossible without the help of CSF. It also greatly changed my outlook on life because I was mostly pessimistic about most things, even when I was applying for a scholarship I was afraid that it was just a utopia and that there was very little chance that I would get a scholarship.

After I received the scholarship, it was a great incentive and a great responsibility for me to justify the trust I had from CSF and my patrons. I don't know how much you are aware, but the situation in Croatia is very bad in terms of citizens' awareness, and when I tell anyone that I am a scholarship holder of your foundation and how it works, they cannot believe that such an association actually exists. CSF gave me faith in good people and that good returns good. ■

- Ivica Matošević

Being a part of the CSF story further motivated me to try harder and work because only selected students were part of this story. The amount of the scholarship was enough for my rent in the student dormitory (rent for the Cvjetno naselje dormitory 500 kn) and the vast majority of the amount of money I set aside for food in the student canteen.

- Matej Luburić



Matej Luburić



Al Saračević

We will miss you, Al

With heavy hearts we announce the sudden and untimely passing of one of our own, Al Saračević. For several years, Al was an active member of the CSF family. As a proud and passionate Croatian, Al loved the mission behind CSF and giving back to his homeland through the opportunity of higher education.

Throughout the years he held different positions within the organization from volunteer to advisory board member; but his niche was the annual golf tournament. Al poured countless hours into the tournament and was a driving force behind its success. His big personality was a large presence at the event which made for a fun and enjoyable day for all in attendance. Al will be greatly missed by us all at CSF.

CSF/Miljenko Grgich Endowment offers scholarships and internship programs

Scholarships are given to students majoring in Viticulture and Enology at the University of Zagreb. This is a Masters level program and the selected students receive scholarships for the two years they are in the program. Selected students come to the United States for a three month internship through the Viticulture and Enology Program at one of the Napa and Sonoma premier wineries.

Five graduates who were selected for the internship program this year share their comments:

My internship is still ongoing, but I can already say with certainty that I am very satisfied with everything and grateful ... to have the opportunity to do this wonderful job. All of this would not have happened without Miljenko Grgich, whom I hereby thank, as well as the entire CSF team who chose me for this unique trip.

In the past two months, I learned a lot of new actions that are carried out in large wineries, and perfected my existing knowledge... I am sure that with the knowledge gained in America, I will help my family in the progress of our small family winery. I am grateful to the entire Merry Edwards Winery team who surprise me every day with new opportunities to learn and upgrade my skills in the cellar...

- Erik Matić

Internship in Merry Edwards is for me a meaningful experience through which I am obtaining new skills such as forklift driving,

Continued on back page...

Grgich Interns continued from page 7:

tending the barrels, cellar cleaning techniques and making wine additions. It is the first harvest that I have pleasure to work in from reception of the grapes and through the whole processing. ... [because] this environment is multicultural and abundant in its diversity, I feel like I'm growing as a person. It is heartwarming to experience the kindness of the people who try to make interns feel at home. I am certain that this practical knowledge ... is making me more capable as a winemaker. To conclude, Miljenko Grgich internship provides life changing experience, and it is a privilege to be a part of it.

- **Stribor Pocem Mihaljević**

I am so grateful for the opportunity given to me by Croatian Scholarship Fund. Working at the Grgich Hills winery proved what I want to do in the future. I learned a lot about winemaking, built myself as a person, and I believe that a lot more awaits me in the next month, as long as our internship lasts.

Grgich Hills winery brought friends into my life who I will certainly carry with me to Croatia, in my heart.

- **Tina Lovrin Mrak**

GRGICH INTERNS PHOTO GALLERY

Antonella Gelendir

Erik Matić

Tina Lovrin Mrak

Stribor Mihaljević

Petra Pranjic



Fund RAISING DRIVE

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In Memory of: _____

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PO Box 290, San Ramon, CA 94583

For more information please call:

530-392-2467

email: info@croatianscholarship.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

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To Donate online go to croatianscholarship.org, click on DONATE • **Thank you for your contribution to CSF!**

Mark Your Calendars:

■ **April 29, 2023 – Gala Dinner** hosted at the Croatian American Culteral Center in Sacramento, CA

■ **September 8, 2023 – 8th Annual Golf Tournament** in honor of Al Saračević will be held at the Hiddenbrooke Golf Club in Vallejo, CA.
Check the CSF website and our facebook page for updates!

We are looking forward to seeing you all!

Sponsors continued from front page ...

my kids meet young people who come from more humble means and are working hard to advance their education.

- **Dr. Marko Bodor**, sponsor since 2000

We decided to support Croatian students in reaching their educational goals through CSF. We were fortunate to have families who helped us to complete our university education, and we want to share with others so they, too, can achieve their dreams and goals.

- **Peter and Pamela Bogdanović**, sponsors since 2005