

ALUMNI UNIZG

ALMAE
MATRIS
ALUMNI
UNIVERSITATIS
STUDIORUM
ZAGRABIENSIS



HERALD OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES OF FORMER STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB



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*My dear and respected alumni,
It is my pleasure to write this introduction, considering the abundance of alumni activities in 2022. I would like to thank everyone who was a part of these activities, and the texts in this Glasnik will summarise the important highlights of last year's activities, consistent with the content before you. The new Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. presents his constructive plans concerning the university, including a motivating overview of the upcoming alumni activities. It is my obligation here to thank the former Rector Prof. Damir Boras, Ph.D., and his vice-Rectors*

for their heartfelt cooperation; I also wish luck to the newly-appointed Rector, Lakušić and the newly elected vice-Rectors, in their upcoming endeavours and challenges. Enjoy your studies and the association's Board of Directors promises frequent new events along with reinforcing other similar activities that could be beneficial for our alumni and the university, in 2023.

I wish you all the best!

*Yours truly
Mario*

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EXECUTIVE EDITORS:	Martina Kolar Billege, Krunoslav Kovačević, Petra Lojen, Paula Pavletić
GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT:	Ante Kulušić
ADDRESS:	Alumni Office of the University of Zagreb Trg Republike Hrvatske 14, 10000 Zagreb +385 1 4698 109
TEL:	
E-MAIL:	alumni@unizg.hr
URL:	www.unizg.hr
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Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D.

Respected alumni of the University of Zagreb,
Dear friends,

It is my pleasure and honour to address you, at the beginning of my term, as the rector, and to greet you on behalf of myself and the new administration of the University of Zagreb. You, our precious alumni, know very well that the University of Zagreb is a pioneering academic and research institution in the Republic of Croatia. Only an institution that is as strong as ours is capable of pushing the limits of knowledge and creating new additional value, at both national and international scientific and economic levels. Our former, present, and future students form the backbone of the development and progress of not just the University of Zagreb but also of our society as a whole. Therefore, we encourage the freedom and integrity of scientific thought and modern teaching through which we constantly transfer modern technologies to our economy. Thus, we are building a university that is open and related to the economy, which will certainly ensure the economic prosperity of our country and, consequently, the continuous improvement of the quality of life in our homeland. This connection between the university and the society was best felt after the earthquake in 2020, when the entire academic community held hands to serve the common benefit. We also contributed significantly to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. In both cases, our employees, alumni, and students, along with their goodwill and high competences, created an example of how a moment of crises could be dealt with effectively.

It is evident that an attempt to connect the university with the wider social community, with a greater emphasis on the economic domain, provides important momentum to the progress that we all invoke and hope for. We refer to this as the academic entrepreneurship system. It is a system that must be designed, built, and developed wisely; the ultimate goal is the welfare of society and the homeland we live in. It is clear that students and their employers are at the heart of this academic entrepreneurship. Students form the core of the Rector's program, and the fulfilment of this program largely wrests with our alumni who have become employers in large numbers. Thereby, the University of Zagreb nurtures a goal to be an active co-creator of the prosperity of the Republic of Croatia. The University of Zagreb, based on generally accepted academic values, offers its competencies and innovations to help all aspects of sustainable social development. One of the great tasks ahead is to complete the process of renovating university buildings damaged during the earthquake. It is a great challenge to improve the quality of work and study and to set better working conditions for our scientific research work, resulting in innovation. We will also use the renovation of our buildings to improve the internal structure and operations of the university. The University's administration, in partnership with all employees, becomes a service for its constituents and responds to their needs. Only a university that takes care of each of its constituents—all teachers, students, and alumni—can be described as strong and modern. I personally experience the success of each constituent as the success of our university. With the administration and the students, our best promoters are you, our successful alumni, whom we are extremely proud of. During all 354 years of activity, the University of Zagreb has continuously reached out to the wider community in which it operates and thus exemplifies that innovation and knowledge provide true momentum to progress. We eagerly look forward to your active participation in realizing this economic momentum. I am certain that with a team of vice-Rectors, deans, teachers, students, alumni, the economy, the public sector, and the wider social community, I will improve the University of Zagreb, where almost 50% of all students in the Republic of Croatia study. It is the central Croatian higher education institution that nurtures a large part of the scientific research potential of the Republic of Croatia. We move forward with strength and in communion, promoting the freedom and integrity of scientific thought and the high quality of the teaching-learning process. The University of Zagreb is open-to-all, well-known, and connected to the international academic community; thereby, constantly improving and strengthening its economic and social development agenda. Join us on this journey with the same vigour, our dear alumni!

Yours truly
Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D.
Rector of the University of Zagreb

Ceremonial inauguration of the new Rector of the University of Zagreb



Inauguration Ceremony of New Rector of the University of Zagreb

Ceremonial inauguration of the new (84th) Rector of the University of Zagreb Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. was held on Tuesday, 18 October, 2022 at the Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb. The ceremony began with the intonation of the anthem, followed by welcome speeches by dignitaries who wished good luck for the newly elected Rector and thanked the former one. The formal addresses were made by: Vice President of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, academician Davor Miličić, Mayor of the City of Zagreb Tomislav Tomašević; Minister of Science and Education and envoy of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Prof. Radovan Fuchs, Ph.D., member of the Croatian Parliament and envoy of the President of the Croatian Parliament, Prof. Vesna Bedeković, Ph.D., and the President of the Republic of Croatia, Zoran Milanović.



Mayor of the City of Zagreb Tomislav Tomašević

In his speech, Tomislav Tomašević specifically referred to the importance of building the Borongaj Campus: 'There is plenty of room for progress, it is up to the city of Zagreb to provide solutions for the infrastructure of the transport corridors. I hope that the Borongaj Campus will be a project for which the new administration of the University of Zagreb as well as the administration of the City of Zagreb will be remembered. I believe that together, we can make this happen'.



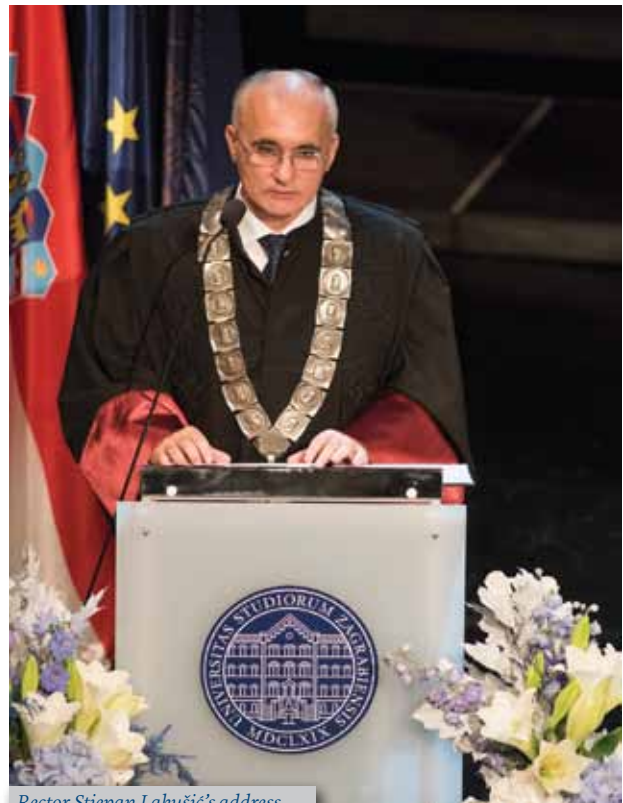
President of the Republic of Croatia, Zoran Milanović

After the introductory address by Prof. Bojan Baletić, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Zagreb, the audiences were addressed by former Rector Prof. Damir Boras, Ph.D., who briefly reflected on his eight-year term and wished the new Rector a lot of luck and success.



‘Dear Prof. Rector Stjepan Lakušić, I sincerely and heartily wish you every success. Finally, I would like to recite for you the words from the poem “Warning” by our great Croatian poet Antun Branko Šimić, with which I started my first term eight years ago: “Man, be careful not to walk small under the stars”.’ The former Rector then handed over the insignias of the University of Zagreb to the new Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. Professor Lakušić gave an inaugural speech saying that this day was the end of one and the beginning of a new chapter. He pointed out that he received enormous amounts of trust and support, which is a spur for future work, based on the fundamental premise that the student is at the centre of the community. He also stressed that the quality of education is a guarantee of development and that we have to work together to keep students in their homeland: ‘my basic premise is that the student is at the centre of the community. Quality of education guarantees development’. Speaking of students, he pointed out one of the basic guiding principles of

our Association, and that is the pride felt by present and former students of their Alma Mater: ‘It is my wish and goal for students to feel proud during their studies at the University of Zagreb’.



Rector Stjepan Lakušić's address

He then presented his team of Vice-Rectors, stressing that: ‘Difficult times create determined people; I have no fears and instead I readily accept challenges that my team and I will address’, said Rector Lakušić and commented on the priorities of the new administration, namely infrastructure reconstruction and the realisation of Borongaj Campus. The ceremony ended with the intonation of the academic anthem, *Gaudeamus igitur*. Numerous dignitaries and guests attended the inauguration ceremonies.

Paula Pavletić and Petra Lojen

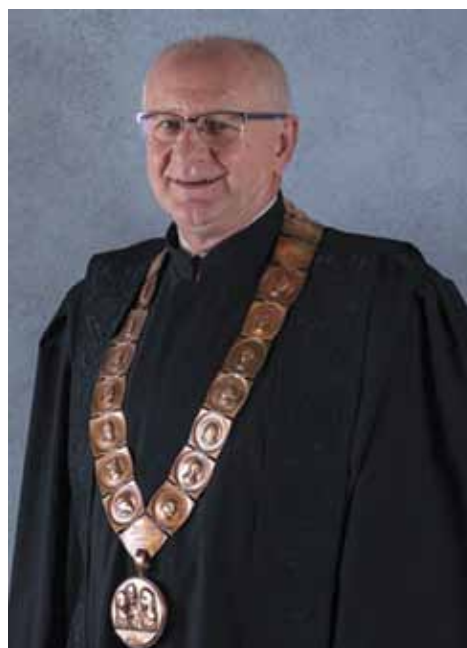
Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D.

He was born in 1968 in the Slavonski Brod. He graduated in 1994 from the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of Zagreb, where he was employed as a research assistant in the Department of Transportation and continued his professional journey as a full-tenured professor. He graduated from the same faculty in 1998 as a Master of Sciences and obtained a Ph.D. degree in 2003. Prior to his rectoral term, which began on October 1, 2022, he served as the vice-Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Zagreb. The scientific work of Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., is focused on the railways, especially on the research of tram and railway track constructions, the dynamic influence of vehicles on tracks, noise and vibrations on tracks, and rail fastening elements on the ground. Prof. Lakušić has published, as author or co-author, 26 research papers in international and domestic journals, 120 papers in proceedings of international and domestic scientific conferences, and 35 chapters in books. He has participated in numerous international and domestic scientific conferences, was the editor of 13 books, and was the editor-in-chief of the Civil Engineer Journal. His international research project on rubberised concrete noise barriers — RUCONBAR and the innovative product created as part of this project — absorbing concrete barriers for noise protection with recycled rubber — RUCONBAR have been awarded several international and domestic awards in Belgium, Croatia, the Netherlands, the USA, and Switzerland.



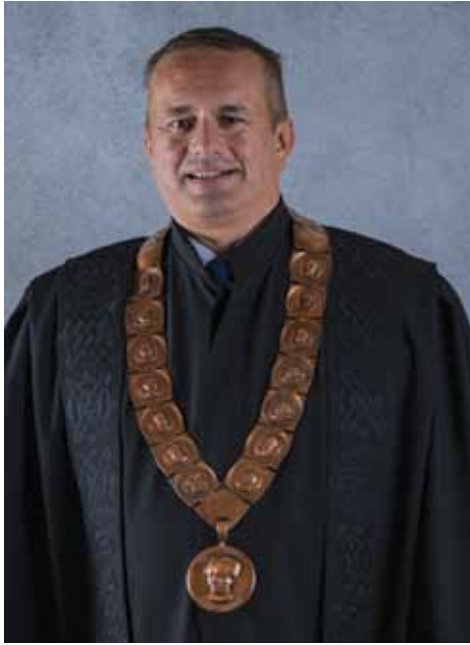
Prof. Boris Brkljačić, Ph.D.
Vice-Rector for Students, Undergraduate
and Graduate Studies

He was born in Zagreb, in 1963. He graduated from the School of Medicine of the University of Zagreb in 1988, where he received a Rector's Award for the Best Student in 1987. He began his career in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the University Hospital Centre, Zagreb, and passed a specialist examination in radiology in 1994. He subspecializes in ultrasound and interventional radiology, and received his master's degree in 1991 and his doctorate in 1994 from the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb. He became an assistant professor in 1997 at the Department of Radiology of the same school, associate professor in 2002, full professor in 2007, and a full-tenured professor in 2013. He was selected as an Adjunct Professor of Radiology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Medicine in 2020. He attended *Thomas Jefferson University* (Philadelphia) and *Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, Cornell University* (New York) on several occasions for professional training. Prior to his vice-Rectoral mandate, he served as a vice-Dean for Science at the Faculty of Medicine from 2015 to 2021; a year later, he was a vice-Dean for International Cooperation of the same faculty. He was a member of the Executive Council of the European Society of Radiology and President of the European Society of Radiology, and is now the President of the European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research (EURAMED) and the Secretary General of the International Society of Radiology. He was the President of the Croatian Society of Radiology and is currently the President of the Croatian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology of the Croatian Medical Association, and the first vice-President of the Croatian Medical Association. He is also a regular member of the Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences.



Prof. Dubravko Majetić, Ph.D.
Vice-Rector for Science, Research
and Postgraduate Studies

He was born in Zagreb, in 1962. He graduated, as the best student of the generation, from the technical school, Ruder Bošković, in Zagreb. In 1988, he graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb, where he was appointed as a trainee in the same year. He received his Ph.D. from the same faculty in 1996 when he was selected as a Senior Assistant. In the Department of Robotics and Production System Automation, he became an assistant professor in 2000, an associate professor in 2005, a full professor in 2010, and a full-tenured professor in 2015. Before taking office as vice-Rector, he served as vice-Dean for Scientific Research and Cooperation with the Industry in two terms; from 2018 to 2022, he was the Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture of the University of Zagreb. He regularly collaborates with the editors of renowned foreign journals and scientific consultations, for which he reviews papers. He received the 'Best Paper Award' at the DAAAM International Symposium 'Intelligent Manufacturing & Automation: Focus on Reconstruction and Development'. He received the 'Josip Juraj Strossmayer '99' reward for the most successful scientific work in the field of technical sciences published in Croatia, in 1998. His research interests include automatic regulation with a focus on the management of machining and robotics. He is also interested in the field of artificial intelligence, particularly in the modelling and use of artificial neural networks.



Prof. Jurica Pavičić, Ph.D.
Vice-Rector for International
and Inter-institutional Cooperation

He was born in Zagreb, in 1972. He completed his undergraduate studies in Business Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Zagreb, where he received his degree in Marketing, in 1995, and in Foreign Trade, in 1996. He defended his Master's thesis in the field of Marketing in 1997, and his doctoral thesis in 2000 at the same Faculty. He defended his doctoral thesis in Sociology in 2009 at the University of Alpen-Adria in Klagenfurt, Austria. Since 1995, he has been employed at the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Zagreb, where he was awarded the scientific and teaching titles of assistant professor in 2001, associate professor in 2005, full professor in 2008, and full-tenured professor in 2013. In 1998 and 1999, he attended the University of Kentucky in Lexington, USA for professional training. In 2018, he completed the EFMD Global Network Executive Academy Teaching and Learning Professionals Programme in Prague. He completed a Strategy and Innovation program in Cambridge, USA, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in 2019. Before taking office as vice-Rector, he served as vice-Dean. From 2018 to 2022, he was the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Zagreb. Since 2011, he has been a visiting professor at the Alpen-Adria University of Klagenfurt, Austria, and other universities, home and abroad. His scientific research interests include marketing, strategy, non-profit organisations, and the sociology of communities. His recent studies relate to the challenges of governance and leadership in educational institutions and organisations at all levels of education. He won the Mijo Mirković Award at the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Zagreb.



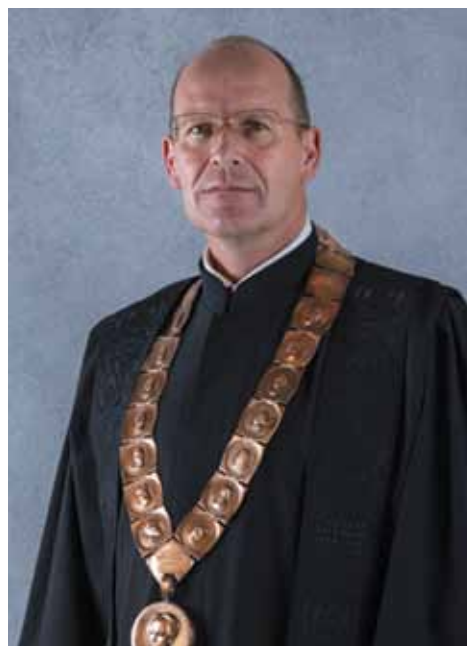
Prof. Tomislav Josip Mlinarić, Ph.D.
Vice-Rector for Innovation, Technology Transfer
and Cooperation with Economic Sector

He was born in Zagreb in 1969. He graduated with honours from the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences at the University of Zagreb in 1994, after which he was employed as a junior assistant in the Department of Railway Transport. As part of the joint program for the acquisition of his doctorate, he spent two years at the Institute of Eisenbahnwesen und Verkehrswirtschaft at the Faculty of Civil Engineering in the Technical University of Graz, and also in 2002, for professional training. At the Faculty, he was first awarded the scientific research title Research Associate and then the scientific and teaching titles of assistant professor in 2004, associate professor in 2009, full professor in 2015, and full-tenured professor in 2021. Before taking office as a vice-Rector, he was a vice-Dean for Science and External Cooperation and a Dean at his faculty from 2018 to 2022. He is the president of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Research Financing as part of the doctoral study of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, a foundation created on his initiative. He has independently published or co-authored more than 30 professional projects and studies in the field of the management and modernisation of railway traffic and logistics chains in intermodal transport systems. From April 22, 2004 to September 29, 2005, he served as President of the Management Board and General Manager of Croatian Railways. He served as the Chairman of the Management Board of the Railway Safety Agency from 2012 to 2017. He is the founder of the Intermodal Promotion Centre IPC Danube-Adriatic (2004) and its first President. He is an Associate Member at the Croatian Academy of Engineering.



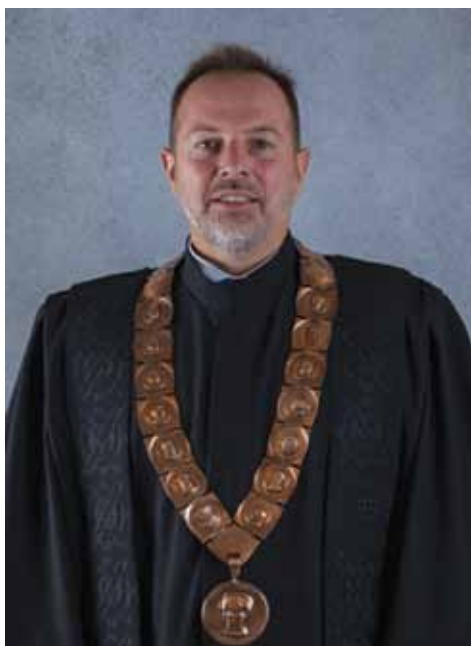
Assoc. Prof. Anamarija Musa, Ph.D.
Vice-Rector for Quality Management and Ethics

She was born in Zagreb in 1974. She graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb in 1999, completed her Master's degree in European Policy and Management in 2004 at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and defended her doctoral thesis in 2009 at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb. Since 2001, she has been employed at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb, where she progressed to the title of associate Professor (2019). She attended postdoctoral training at the Public Management Institute at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium and George Washington University School of Law in Washington, DC, USA as a Fulbright fellow. She participated in the U.S. International Visitors Leadership Program (2017) and completed the CAR-NET E-learning Academy for E-learning mentors (2011–2012) and Management of e-learning (2012–2013). She is the President of the Croatian Academy of Legal Sciences, President of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Public Administration, member of the Management Board of the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in CEE, and member of the Advisory Board of Access to Europe. From 2013 to 2018, upon appointment with the Croatian Parliament, she served as an Information Commissioner. She was a member of the European Commission's Open Data Working Group and worked as a consultant on projects of international organisations such as the OECD Sigma, Council of Europe, UNDP, USAID, and the European Commission in the fields of public administration reform, anti-corruption, transparency promotion, legislative processes, administrative procedures, Civil Service legislation, and others.



Prof. Tibor Pentek, Ph.D.
Vice-Rector for Organization, Infrastructure
Development and Human Resources

He was born in Zagreb, in 1972. He graduated from the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Zagreb (now the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology) in 1995 as the best student of his generation. In January 1996, he was employed by the same faculty as a junior assistant. He defended his Master's thesis in 1998 and his doctoral thesis in 2002. At the Institute of Forest Engineering of the Faculty of Forestry, he was admitted to the following scientific and teaching positions: assistant professor in 2005, associate professor in 2009, full professor in 2012, and full-tenured professor in 2017. He has been the manager of the Training and Forest Research Centre of Zalesina since 2004. He served two terms as vice-Dean for International Cooperation (2006–2010) and Dean (2018–2022) of the Faculty of Forestry. He has been editor-in-chief/co-editor of the journal 'Croatian Journal of Forest Engineering' since 2005, and was the editor-in-chief/co-editor of the journal 'Nova mehanizacija šumarstva' from 2005 to 2015. He is a permanent member of the Scientific Committee of the International Organisation, FORMEC. In 2019, he was appointed vice-coordinator of the IUFRO's research group 3.01.00, Harvesting and Transportation Engineering. Twice in the academic years 2006–2007 and 2011–2012, he was appointed as a visiting professor at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna. He is active in the Croatian Chamber of Forestry and Wood Technology Engineers, where he is a member of the Committee of Professional Training of Forest Engineers, a member of the Assembly, President of the Department of Forest Engineers, and a member of the Council. He has been a full member of the Academy of Forestry Sciences since 2015. He is a member of the IUFRO, Croatian Forestry Society, and Croatian Ecological Society.



Prof. Tomislav Bolanča, Ph.D.
Vice-Rector for Business and Digitalization

He was born in Zagreb in 1974. He received his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the Faculty of Science at the University of Zagreb and his Master's degree in 2000. He received his Ph.D. from the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology (FCET) at the University of Zagreb, where he has been employed since 1998. At the FCET, he served as a vice-Dean for business from 2013 to 2017, and from 2017 to 2021, he served as a Dean on two terms. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the 'J. J. Strossmayer Water Institute', President of the Supervisory Board of the Croatian Association of Innovators and President of the Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers. He served as Chairman of the Management Board of the FCET's subsidiary, Comprehensive Water Technology from 2015 to 2022. He has been a permanent member of the Board of Directors of Central European Group of Separation Sciences since 2012. In 2014, he received the Medal and Award for Achievements in the Field of Chromatography and Related Separation Techniques, an international scientific prize. He was on scientific training at Dionex Corp., Sunnyvale, USA and Idstein, Germany, and in 2000 and 2002 at the National Institute of Chemistry in Slovenia. The activity of technology transfer to the economy has been carried out and performed by participating in the implementation of more than 40 technological projects and the development of pilot plants from the domain of water purification. He won one gold medal, two silver medals, and plaques at international innovation fairs. In 2009, he became an accredited auditor for the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems.



Prof. art. Jasenka Ostojić, Ph.D.
Vice-Rector for Art, Culture,
and Inter-university Cooperation

She was born in Zagreb, in 1969. She graduated, in 1993, in Conducting at the Academy of Music at the University of Zagreb in the class of Prof. Pavle Dešpalj, where she also completed a one-year artistic training program as a fellow of the Lovro and Lilly Matačić Foundation. She became an assistant professor at the Academy of Music, University of Zagreb, in 2000, an associate professor in 2010, and was awarded the artistic and teaching title of a full-tenured professor in 2016. She is the head of a series of seminars, professional training programs, and a guest lecturer at domestic and foreign universities (in Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the United States). She is the President and member of many expert juries at competitions of conductors, orchestras, and choirs in Croatia and abroad (Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Bulgaria). As a conductor of choirs and orchestras, she has won dozens of national and international awards, including two international Grand Prix. She directed the premiere works of numerous composers and was awarded special acknowledgements for these performances on several occasions. Over the past ten years, she has served as the artistic Director of the World Choir Festival of Music in Thessaloniki, Greece. In 2006, she founded the Croatian Society Collegium Pro Arte and the following choirs and ensembles: Cappella Zinka, Cappella Odak, Odak Camera-ta, and Ensemble Celeste. She is the editor of the collection 'An Anthology of Croatian Choral Music' published by the Zadar Concert Office in 2021.

ALUMNI UNIZG Association - Assembly meeting

On 5th July, 2022, the assembly of the Association of Societies of Former Students at the University of Zagreb (ALUMNI UNIZG) was held at the University of Zagreb's School of Medicine. During this assembly, the seventh event of the alumni story cycle was held at the School of Medicine. Formal gatherings began with the intonation of the anthem of the Republic of Croatia, performed by 'Lege Artis', the choir of the School of Medicine; then the President of the Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D. delivered a speech. Dean of the School of Medicine, Prof. Slavko Orešković, Ph.D. reminded that the 105th anniversary of the institution was round the corner and it represented one of the pillars on which the University of Zagreb was based upon. He referred to the contributions of the students, professors, and alumni of the School of Medicine during the Homeland War and the coronavirus pandemic, especially highlighting their volunteer work. The newly elected Rector, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. emphasised that the University's task is to provide its students with excellent knowledge, but its prime task is to build good and quality human beings, in this process. He reiterated that the importance and strength of the academic community has come through and proven itself in times of crisis of the coronavirus pandemic and the earthquake, when it immediately offered solutions and volunteered to help victims. He believes that such events are a real opportunity to connect with the alumni community and join forces to offer society the best that this community has in store.



Welcome speech by Dean, Slavko Orešković

Then the current Rector Prof. Damir Boras pointed out that the University of Zagreb represents the core values of the Croatian people, which is best illustrated by the engagement offered by the academic community in the fight against the pandemic and earthquakes. He recalled the beginning of the alumni activity at the University of Zagreb when, during the movement for independence, the then-Rector Prof. Šeparović asked him to advocate Croatian independence in the United States among our alumni. The success of the engagement of the Croatian diaspora alumni in the American



Damir Boras' address

administration is evident in the strength and importance of our scientific community worldwide. In the working part of the meeting, Prof. Mario Šafran submitted a report on the Association's Board of Directors for the period July 2021–July 2022, in which he reported on the Association's activities in the past year. He said that, in the reporting period, the alumni stories of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology and the Catholic Faculty of Theology as well as the workshop on the possibilities of financing alumni activities from EU funds organised by the Association in cooperation with the AMAC-FSC Association of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences were conducted.



Presentation by the President of the Association

He further reported that the 30th issue of the association's Glasnik, which was also translated into English, was released in December 2021 and that the alumni domain e-mail project continued successfully, with more than 1000 alumni alias addresses currently stored in the database. Finally, Prof. Šafran announced the planned autumn activities and expressed his wish to intensify and accelerate these activities in the future. The event continued with the alumni story of the School of Medicine: E-professionalism of health professionals, in which prominent alumni of the school participated.

Petra Lojen and Paula Pavletić

Alumni as the strength of the University — the success story of FCET



Participants of the Alumni story of FCET

The lecture cycle 'Alumni story' continued with the successful story of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb, on December 16, 2021. The guests of this alumni story, former FCET students, told their side of the successful story of the faculty, and the guests were Prof. Emer. Helena Jasna Mencer, first Rector of the University of Zagreb; President of the Association of Societies of Former Students of the University of Zagreb in two terms and one of the founders of the alumni association of the Faculty (AMACIZ) Prof. Ante Jukić, Ph.D.; the current Dean of the Faculty, Krunoslav Kovačević, Ph.D.: one of the founders of the alumni association of the Faculty (AMACIZ); doctoral researcher of the Nobel Prize winner Vladimir Prelog, former head of the "Vladimir Prelog" Academic choir Franjo Jović, Ph.D., active alumnus

of the Faculty employed in PLIVA. The interview was moderated by the alumna of the University of Zagreb, Mislav Togonal, editor and TV host at HRT. Through interesting anecdotes, Helena Jasna Mencer recalled the beginnings of the development of alumni philosophy at FCET and then at the University of Zagreb, highlighting the initiators of the idea Prof. Branko Kunsta, Ph.D., Prof. Zvonimir Šeparović, Ph.D. and Prof. Žarko Dolinar, Ph.D. Kruno Kovačević recalled the stimulating relationship of our Nobel laureate Vladimir Prelog with doctoral researchers and told us about various alumni activities carried out by AMACIZ with the aim of gathering and socialising the alumni of the Faculty. He highlighted the work of the 'Vladimir Prelog' Academic choir, which has been active for 30 years. Ante Jukić said that the faculty is recognisable for its research and association with industry, emphasising the importance of the connection between the Faculty and the University with its alumni for mutual benefit. Franjo Jović, who is extremely active in cooperation with his former faculty, said that, from his position in Pliva, he has an intensive cooperation with the faculty through projects where the focus is on generating knowledge, not primarily on financial benefits. He stressed the importance of working with graduates who come for practice and recruiting the best students.

Alumni as the strength of the University — the success story of the Catholic Faculty of Theology

The successful alumni story of the Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb, was told on 10th March, 2022, by interesting guests: the Faculty's alumni: Nikola Kuzmičić, theology graduate, teacher at Tituš Brezovački High School in Zagreb; Prof. Tonči Matulić, Ph.D., president of the Faculty's Alumni Association (DBS-KBF); Blaženka Jančić, catechetics graduate, editor of the Croatian radio's religious program; Prof. Josip Šimunović, Ph.D., Dean of the Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb. The interview was moderated by the alumnus of the University of Zagreb, Mislav Togonal, editor and TV host at HRT. Nikola Kuzmičić said that it was wonderful to be a teacher in this day and age, because young people are the link between the past and the present. He pointed out that young people show interest in spiritual and transcendental aspects and seek answers to their questions. The possibility of talking and finding answers to their questions represents the beauty of working with young people. Blaženka Jančić recalled her student days at the

faculty, describing them as having a warm family atmosphere that permeated both students and professors. Josip Šimunović said that students stay in contact with their faculty after graduation, but still not as much as expected. Tonči Matulić pointed out that they are connected with their former students on a daily basis at the faculty, although the potential of alumni culture is still not developed sufficiently.



Participants of the Alumni story of CFT

Alumni story of the School of Medicine: E-professionalism of health professionals

Within the 'Alumni story' cycle, a successful alumni story of the School of Medicine was held on July 5, 2022: E-professionalism of health professionals. The following alumni of the School took part in the discussion: Prof. Zvonko Šošić, Ph.D., president of the AMAMUZ alumni association; Prof. Božo Krušlin, Ph.D., vice-Dean for Science of the School of Medicine; Prof. Tea Vukušić-Rukavina, Ph.D., project manager of the project called The Dangers and Benefits of Social Networks: E-professionalism of health professionals; Dr. Krešimir Luetić, PhD, President of the Croatian Medical Chamber. The discussion was moderated by Prof. Veljko Đorđević, Ph.D.



Participants of the Alumni story of the School of Medicine

Zvonko Šošić presented the work of AMAMUZ association, pointing out that the greatest efforts are being made to attract new members to the Association and motivate them to engage, and fu-



Krešimir Luetić

ture plans rely on the launch of the alumni association abroad, which would deepen and strengthen the link between the alumni in the homeland and beyond.

Božo Krušlin referred to the scientific and research projects of the School of Medicine, while Tea Vukušić-Rukavina spoke about the project 'E-professionalism of health professionals' and the research carried out within that project. She pointed out that the main objective of the project was to investigate the impact of social networks on the e-professionalism of healthcare professionals in the Republic of Croatia, and to develop and test guidelines to encourage its development based on the results. Krešimir Luetić recalled a few life stories through an interesting presentation from his childhood and student days to the present office of the President of the Croatian Medical Chamber.

'Alumni story: from student to Rector' — guest Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D.

In this Alumni story, which took place on 15th November, 2022 Mr. Mislav Togonal interviewed Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., Rector of the University of Zagreb. In an interesting conversation, Rector Lakušić recalled his initial days when he came from Slavonski Brod to Zagreb to study civil engineering. Despite him wanting to return to Slavonski Brod after graduation and work on the construction of houses and buildings, an opportunity arose, and there was a vacancy for the position of Chair for Railways which he accepted. The fact that he submitted his candidacy for the Rector of the University of Zagreb, knowing that in front of him and his team is a challenging and difficult task, speaks volumes of his persistence and courage, but he points out that 'difficult times create courageous people'.

In addition to the serious needs related to the renovation of the rectorate building, he emphasised the necessity of serious renovation of the entire system of the University of Zagreb. He pointed out that 'the university's management, together



Rector Stjepan Lakušić and host Mislav Togonal

with all employees, should be a service to its constituents and find ways to respond well to their needs, which is why the existing rectorate offices will need to be further improved, reorganised, and adapted. A strong and modern university takes care of each of its constituents: its teachers and students; so I consider the success of each constituent as the success of the university.

The quality of study programs and teachers speaks enough for themselves, and our advertisements



Audiences

are our graduate students, professors, and alumni, who succeed in work and in life'. He emphasised the importance and role of the University of Zagreb as the oldest and largest public university in Croatia, which can be improved and strengthened through cooperation with the economy. In doing so, he announced the establishment of an Economic Council as well as an Alumni Council, which he pointed out to be valuable but still underused the capital that the university needs and counts on. 'We should invite the alumni to the University and involve them more because they are our best promoters', said Rector Lakušić. Constructive questions and comments from the audience contributed to the discussion, and finally, the President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., thanked Rector Lakušić for the interesting conversation, pointing out that alumni really are the strength of our university and that with systematic work, we can expect good results. He also wished the new Board of Directors success in future work.

Three more events were held within the 'Alumni Story' cycle:

■ The workshop "Possibilities of financing alumni activities from EU funds"

On 5th April, 2022, at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, at the Borongaj Campus, the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, in cooperation with the AMAC-FSC association, organised the workshop 'Possibilities of financing alumni activities from EU funds'. The workshop was held on the occasion of the association's 20th anniversary.

■ Alumni as the strength of the University - the success story of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences

On Monday, 24th October, 2022, at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (ERF) of the University of Zagreb, an alumni story was held under the title 'Alumni as the strength of the University: a success story of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences of the University of Zagreb', where the 3rd meeting of generations of ERF alumni who graduated from 1979 to 1986 was organised.

■ The role of alumni in the creation and implementation of strategic goals - presentation of the draft strategic plan of the Common Agricultural Policy 2023 - 2027

On 11th November, 2022, the Faculty of Agriculture hosted an alumni story by Mr. Tugomir Majdak, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia, who completed his memory of his student days by presenting the draft strategic plan of the Common Agricultural Policy 2023 - 2027.

Read more in the column 'Alumni association contributions'.

Recordings of all Alumni stories of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association can be viewed on the YouTube channel of the University of Zagreb: [UniZg - YouTube](#).

The conference 'A person is a medicine for another person' was held

At the School of Medicine of the University of Zagreb, a three-day conference on communication in medicine was held under the title 'A person is a medicine for another person'. 'Communication in medicine is one of the four fundamental skills of every healthcare professional and includes not only talking with the patient but also with their family members, the media, pharmaceutical and insurance companies, patient associations, and governmental and non-governmental organisations', said Dr. Marijana Braš, President of the Organizing Committee. The president of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., participated in the conference on the topic

of communication, with the alumni of the University of Zagreb, as part of the panel 'Komunikacija u medicini unutar akademske zajednice' (*Communication in medicine within the academic community*). The three-day conference brought together experts from various professions through 25 panels: associations of patients, veterans, representatives of faculties and universities, and professors of various specialties who spoke on the importance of communication and the acquisition of communication skills. The conference was organised by the Centre for Palliative Medicine, Medical Ethics, and Communication Skills, School of Medicine (CEPAMET) and the Zagreb Institute for Health Culture.

AMCA ERF

Activities of the Croatian Association of Graduates at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (AMCA ERF) in 2022

In 2022, the activities of the Croatian Association of Graduates at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences of the University of Zagreb (AMCA-ERF) were marked by the organisation of the AMCA-ERF Electoral Assembly for 2021, the activities of the Student Council, the successes of teachers and students, and the ERF alumni story.

AMCA ERF Electoral Assembly

On Thursday, 24th March 2022 the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Zagreb (ERF) held the Electoral Assembly of the Croatian Association of Graduates of AMCA ERF. Owing to the epidemiological conditions, the assembly was held in hybrid mode. At the beginning of the Alumni Assembly of Speech Therapy, Paola Danjek, doctoral student at the Language, Speech and Hearing Disorders study program, held an invited lecture on the topic 'It takes a few to TONGUEO'. In an interesting presentation, Danjek presented a digital communicator made in collaboration with Barbara Bilić, a graduate student at the Faculty of Textile Technology of the University of Zagreb, with the help of which people with aphasia could practice speaking independently and always find the right words when communicating with others. The idea of alumni Danjek and Bilić was awarded the third prize at the EIT Health Knowledge and Innovation Community competition - Innovation Days Winners' Event 2021, in competition with 32 teams from 20 European countries. The focus of the Electoral Assembly in 2021 was the presentation of the Annual Work Program of the Association, the financial report, and the Work Program for 2022, with a special emphasis on activities to attract as many members as possible to actively participate in the work of the AMCA ERF. In the Assembly, previous members of the Presidency and the Supervisory Board were dismissed, and for the next three-year period (2022–2025), a new composition was confirmed. Presidency: Prof. Zrinjka Stančić, Ph.D. (President); Assoc. Prof. Ante Bilić Prčić, Ph.D. (Dean and Ex Officio Member); Assoc. Prof. Ana Katušić, Ph.D. (Deputy President); Silvana Bilonić Milošević, M.Sc.; Sanja Horvatić, B.Sc. soc. ped.; Secretary: Klara Matejčić, mag. rehab. educ.; Supervisory Board: Mara Kovačić, M.Sc.; Assoc. Prof. Ljubica Pribanić, Ph.D. (retired); Prof. Sandra Bradarić Jončić, Ph.D. (newly elected member).

Activities of the Student Council

The AMCA ERF and the new convocation of the ERF Student Council regularly collaborate on



designing and organising activities aimed at sensitising and informing the student population as well as citizens about everyday topics and the needs of students with disabilities through projects and humanitarian activities and co-organisation of the ERFUSS International Student Congress.

As a representative body, the ERF Student Council protects the interests of students, participates in the work and decision-making of the Faculty bodies, and represents faculty-students in the higher education system. The Student Council takes care of the quality of students' lives, especially the quality of the study process, student standards, the establishment of student rights, and other issues important to students, and makes conclusions that bind the other bodies of the Student Council. The current composition of the Student Council consists of four students at the Educational Rehabilitation graduate study: Lucija Veršić (Deputy President), Doris Marie Greppin (Secretary), Nikolina Kušterbajn (Student Ombudsperson), Lara Marčec (member) and Karla Crvić, a graduate student in speech therapy in the role of the President. They continuously work on the promotion of the faculty and are involved in several committees and associations; they try to be present in as many student activities and events as possible, and at every step promote the importance of various professions (educational rehabilitator, social pedagogue, speech therapist), as well as the value of the home institution. The ERF Student Council cooperates with student associations of the faculty (Pupovci, Logomotiva, and Rehoov sections), trying to apply a transdisciplinary approach to its work. It is important to highlight successful projects of the Student Council:

1. The project 'OSI' – Otkrij, Spoznaj, Iskusi (*discover, learn, experience*), was created by the members



Poster for the project 'OSI' - otkrij, spoznaj, iskus!

of the ERF Student Council on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and is now, for the second consecutive year, being celebrated in public places in Zagreb. The main goal of the project is to make the student population, through interactive workshops, aware of the challenges that people with disabilities face on a daily basis. Students had the opportunity to talk to people with disabilities, and the entire project was created in accordance with the motto 'Nothing about us without us'. The quality of the project 'OSI' was also recognised at the level of the University of Zagreb, and it was awarded the Rector's Award in 2021.

2. The project 'E(RF)DUCIRAJ SE' was designed with the aim of educating students and connecting the theoretical and practical part of the profession, in connection with the population that our students learn about, meet, work with or will work with in future. This was achieved by sharing the content on our websites and holding panel discussions. In the previous academic year, we marked International Childhood Cancer Day (with the testimony of our colleague who survived leukaemia as a child), World Down Syndrome Day (by holding an online panel discussion), and World Autism Awareness Day (with a panel discussion for students, held in hybrid mode). On social media, the Student Council continues the project called 'Upoznaj profesora' (*Meet the Professor*) through which students present their teachers in an interesting and informative, but also humorous way.

Successes of teachers and students

In 2022, several teachers from the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Zagreb received prestigious awards for their professional work. In April 2022, at the Conference of Educational Rehabilitators 'Cooperation in Educational Rehabilitation' held in Vodice, Prof. Zrinjka Stančić, Ph.D., received the professional award 'Prof. Tomislav Špoljar' for lifetime achievement (the award is named after the first Dean of our Faculty). In June, the American Association for Prevention Teaching and Research awarded a team of researchers from the Laboratory for Prevention Research for their contribution to the field of prevention science through international cooperation. The award winners were: Prof. Martina Ferić, Ph.D.; Assoc. Prof. Valentina Kranželić, Ph.D.; Assoc. Prof. Josipa Mihić, Ph.D.; and Assoc. Prof. Miranda Novak, Ph.D. This award was presented at the 30th Annual Conference of the American Association for Prevention, Teaching, and Research, Seattle, USA. For many years, members of the Student Sports Association of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences of the University of Zagreb have participated in competitions with the Zagreb University Sports Association, where they compete with other faculties throughout the academic year, that is, with constituents of the University of Zagreb in various team and individual sports. In January and February, a women's handball team from the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences participated in the university league and played five matches in the hall of the Faculty of Kinesiology. With victories against the Faculty of Kinesiology (13:11), Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (13:11), Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology (24:12), Faculty of Civil Engineering (23:19), and the School of Medicine (16:8), it remained the only undefeated team on the table and won the first university gold in team sports in the history of our faculty. Individual awards confirmed their knowledge of handball, effort, and teamwork. Sara Bubalo, a 2nd-year Educational Rehabilitation graduate student, was declared the best goalkeeper in the league, and Mia Kovačević, a 3rd-year Rehabilitation undergraduate student, was declared



Women's handball team

red the best scorer and most valuable player (MVP) of the league.

The winners of the Rector's Award in 2022 in the field of Social Sciences are the students of Speech Therapy, Karla Marinko, and Iva Županić for their work entitled 'Lexical diversity and vocabulary composition of child language and child-directed speech in early language development'. The prize in the field of community service in the academic and wider community was awarded to the students of Educational Rehabilitation, members of the Student Council Karla Crvić, Doris Marie Greppin, Nikolina Kušterbajn, Lara Marčec, and Lucija Veršić for the already mentioned project 'OSI' with the purpose of raising awareness of the student population about the difficulties persons with disabilities face, on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Alumni as the strength of the University - the success story of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences

On Monday, 24th October, 2022 at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences of the University of Zagreb, the series of lectures by the ALUMNI UNIZG Association continued under the title 'Alumni as the strength of the University - the success story of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences of the University of Zagreb', where the 3rd meeting of alumni generations of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences who graduated from 1979 to 1986 was organised. Approximately 30 alumni, teachers, and students gathered in the Plitvice hall of the home faculty. The meeting began with a performance of the academic anthem *Gaudeamus igitur*, after which Dean of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences Assoc. Prof. Ante Bilić Prčić, Ph.D. gave a historical overview of the activities of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences in the past 60 years. 'From the very beginning until today, the life of the faculty has been marked by constant changes and modernisation, which is given special vitality by generations of students through activities within the framework of classes, but also through volunteer activities and projects in the community. Young people are



Participants of the ceremony

eager for knowledge and motivated for the betterment of the vulnerable groups in society; through upbringing, education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, they greatly contribute to the reputation of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences and make it one of the most desired departments today', said Assoc. Prof. Bilić Prčić, Ph.D.

President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., emphasised that such events and meetings of generations show that the alumni are truly the strength of their university, and the networking of former students with teachers is a pledge for the future of the faculty. The newly elected Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. said that alumni can make the best contribution not only to the development of the faculty, but also to the development of the entire University, including society as a whole. This is best illustrated by the selfless work, dedication, and efforts of the teachers of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, through which they enrich and simplify the lives of people with disabilities and enable them to integrate further into society. 'If we look at developed universities outside the borders of Croatia, we see that they are developed not only because they have excellent teachers, but also because they have strong alumni who always return to their university, offer help, and, in this way, show their gratitude to the institution where they got their education from and which opened new doors in their lives', said Rector Lakušić.



Rector Stjepan Lakušić's welcome speech

President of the ERF alumni association Prof. Zrinjka Stančić, Ph.D. reflected on the 12-year-long activity of the Association and the activities

that it continuously carries out, such as organising members' meetings through lectures and roundtables, through publishing activities that help achieve the Association's goals, while highlighting humanitarian activities in which ERF students participate. At the end of the presentation, the president of the alumni association highlighted the final results of the ERF LOSPER project entitled 'Improving the Quality of Study Programmes in Speech and Language Pathology, Social Pedagogy and Educational Rehabilitation' the entry of two occupational standards — educational rehabilitator and social pedagogue — in the Register of the Croatian Qualification Framework, and ERF-KLIK, a database of ERF graduate students with the purpose of connecting graduate students both with their home faculty and with each other. This encourages cooperation between institutions in the country and abroad where ERF alumni are employed. The meeting continued with a panel discussion. The participants were alumni of the 3rd generation: Speech Therapist Mag. Darija Hercigonja Salamoni; special education teacher Marija Kirinić, B.Sc.; and Social Pedagogue Prof. Dubravka Stijačić. It was moderated and led by Assoc. Prof. Ivana Borić, Ph.D. At the beginning of the panel discussion, the alumni recalled the reasons and motives for which they decided to enrol in the Faculty of Special Education, as well as their own subsequent professional path and development. Thereby, Dubravka Stijačić pointed out that, despite the possibility of getting a job and staying at the faculty, she still focused her career in the field of rehabilitation of patients with mental illnesses at the Vrapče hospital. Darija Hercigonja Salamoni said: 'By enrolling in the study of speech therapy, I knew that I had chosen the right thing; that I had not chosen a profession, but a vocation to which I am devoted and which I have been doing out of love for all these years, and which motivates me for further volunteer work for the benefit of my profession'.



Participants of the panel discussion

At the age of 16, Marija Kirinić already knew that she would be a teacher, 'that special teacher who wipes tears from children's faces'. 'I consider the Faculty my home, and I have wonderful memories of professors and colleagues with whom I have remained connected throughout my entire life. I remember our professors with deep respect because they not only gave us knowledge but also knew us as individuals', said Marija Kirinić. All three invited alumni, as members of numerous professional associations and chambers, actively participated in the development of the profession and in the development of sciences concerning educational rehabilitation, speech therapy, and social pedagogy, all are intergenerationally responsible for their valuable contribution to them. This was followed by questions and comments from the audience, and the event was enhanced by the performance of the OZANA Choir, which consisted of young people and adults with intellectual disabilities. The members of the choir performed the song 'Ljubav se ne trži niti se kupuje' (*Love cannot be bought or sought after*) and their performance brought smiles to the faces and warmth to the hearts of the audience.



The 'Ozana' choir and the choir leader

The gathering of alumni, teachers, and students in the presence of Rector Lakušić, President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association Šafran, and secretaries of individual alumni associations of the University of Zagreb continued with an appropriate reception. Technical support for the meeting was provided by the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Traffic Sciences. The recording of the entire meeting was published on the website <https://youtu.be/rDwYbFJVQrM>, and the news about the held 'Alumni story' was published on the website of the University of Zagreb as well as the home Faculty

Zrinjka Stančić, President of AMCA ERF

AMAC-FSC

The electoral assembly of the AMAC-FSC Association was held, as well as the workshop 'Possibilities of financing alumni activities from EU funds'

On 5th April 2022 the electoral assembly of the Croatian Association of Graduate Engineers and Engineers of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences of the University of Zagreb AMAC-FSC was held in the amphitheatre of Facility 69 on the Borongaj Campus. At the assembly, the new working bodies of the association and the new president, traffic engineer Mario Klisura, M.Sc., were elected, and they will lead the association for the next four years. After the electoral assembly, the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, in cooperation with the AMAC-FSC Association organised the workshop 'Possibilities of financing alumni activities from EU funds' on the occasion of the Association's 20th anniversary. The participants were: Marin Fak (Eureka Consulting); Assoc. Prof. Darko Babić (AMAC-FSC), Ph.D.; Prof. Mario Šafran (President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association), Ph.D.; Patricia Hellriegel, An Neven (Hasselt University, Belgium); and Martin Bailey and Michael Lindhout (Michigan State University, USA). The conversation was moderated by Mislav Togonal, editor and TV host on HRT, the national public broadcaster of Croatia. Assoc. Prof. Marko Šoštarić, Ph.D., vice-Dean of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, greeted the audience at the beginning, saying that the importance of alumni is recognised at the Faculty, where good relations are maintained through mutual communication and joint engagement. Klisura, the newly elected president of AMAC-FSC, expressed his satisfaction with the fact that he will 'lead' the association into the third decade of its existence, believing that in the upcoming period, it will connect the alumni of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences and



Participants of the event

achieve quality cooperation. Assoc. Prof. Darko Babić, Ph.D., then presented the work of AMAC-FSC, referring to the association's activities carried out thus far, and the main goals for the future.

An 'Alumni Party' of former students of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences of the University of Zagreb was held

On Wednesday, 1st June 2022, at ZUK Borongaj, the Croatian Association of Graduate Engineers and Engineers of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences of the University of Zagreb— AMAC-FSC organised an 'Alumni Party' for its alumni. During the informal gathering, the alumni had the opportunity to exchange information and experiences and reminisce about their student days discussing the possibilities of collaboration and assistance to their Faculty and the University of Zagreb in future. The gathering confirmed, once again, that the alumni have been and will be the true strength of their faculty and the university.

Mario Klisura, President of AMAC-FSC

AMACIZ

Academic Choir 'Vladimir Prelog' marked 30 years of activity with a festive concert in the Church of St. Blaž

On Friday, 8th April 2022 the Vladimir Prelog Academic Choir held a festive concert in the Church of St. Blaž in Zagreb. The program included Requiem, a masterpiece by the French composer, Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924), and *Svrši stopi moje* by Krsto Odak (1888 – 1965). This concert, postponed for two years due to the coronavirus pandemic, represented a real musical event and a festive atmosphere. The church was full and singers and soloists were willing to convey beautiful music to large audien-



The choir and the soloists

ces. At the beginning, Choir director Branko Kobas greeted the audience and guests, among whom were Prof. Damir Boras, Rector of the University of Zagreb (in term of office 2014-2022); Prof. Ante Jukić, Dean of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology; Prof. Mario Šafran, President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association; Valentina Badanjak Pintarić, representative of the Croatian Cultural Assembly; Prof. emer. Jasna Mencer, former Rector, choir member, and Professor emer. Marija Kaštelan-Macan, former Dean of FKIT, founder and member of the Academic Choir. After the greeting, Mrs. Badanjak Pintarić from the Croatian Cultural Assembly presented the choir with a gold plaque for 30 years of continuous activity and handed the plaque and diploma to the director of the Academic Choir Branko Kobas. Katarine Javora accompanied the choir on the organ, and a permanent member, Iva Juras, conducted it. The concert began with the powerful first movement *Introit et Kyrie*, followed by *Offertoire*, in which the young baritone Marin Čargo performed the soloist part. *The Sanctus* followed with a beautiful soprano section. The solo piece *Pie Jesu* was sung with a beautiful voice by an excellent artist, Soprano Lidija Horvat-Dunjko. In the *Agnus Dei* movement, the fullness and quality of all parts of the choir came to the fore. Libera me has once again shown how sovereign and beautiful the baritone (Marin Čargo) sounds in exchange with the choir. With its final movement *In paradisum*, the complete mass ended in a slow and calm manner. As Fauré himself once wrote, this is not a mass as an expression of fear of



The participants and the audience at the concert

death, but as a happy salvation, an aspiration for higher happiness, and not as a painful experience. At the concert, the audiences experienced this beautiful work and rewarded the performers with stormy and long-lasting applause. The final composition of the evening was *Svrši stopi moje* by Krsto Odak, one of the most beautiful choral compositions from the treasury of Croatian composers. Along with the choir and organ, the baritone Marin Čargo performed a solo. The peak of the whole composition were the words ‘spasajej, Gospodi’, followed by a peaceful ending. The audience was really more than satisfied with this nice musical event and saw off the choir, conductor, organist, and soloists with long and strong applause. The entire concert was recorded, and the recording was published on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cX8sEetxUo>.

Krunoslav Kovačević, member of the Choir

AMAC-Alumni FAZ

A lecture titled ‘The role of alumni in the creation and implementation of strategic goals— presentation of the draft strategic plan of the Common Agricultural Policy 2023 – 2027’ was held

The association of former students and friends of the Faculty of Agriculture, AMAC-Alumni FAZ, in cooperation with the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, organised a lecture on the topic ‘The role of alumni in the creation and implementation of strategic goals—presentation of the draft strategic plan of the Joint agricultural policy 2023 – 2027’, on Friday, 11th November 2022 at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Zagreb. The presentation was held by an alumnus of the Faculty of Agriculture, Mr Tugomir Majdak, the state secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia. At the beginning, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Ivica Kisić, Ph.D. greeted the gathering and welcomed them, while the President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D. praised the initiative for organising such an

expert lecture, especially considering the potential of agriculture in Croatia. The circumstances caused by the COVID pandemic and energy crisis have shown the importance of the agricultural sector and food production. Therefore, one of the goals of Croatia is to ensure a sufficient number of products for consumers and an increase in income for agriculturalists, which can be achieved through a new strategic plan. In his lecture, State Secretary Tugomir Majdak presented the draft strategic plan of the ‘Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027’ as a fundamental document for the use of resources from European agricultural funds, which amounted to almost 3.8 billion euros for a five-year period, with the largest part of the measures being financed from funds of the European Union budget. The presented strategic plan will replace the



Tugomir Majdak

current rural development program and include direct payments, in addition to other rural development measures. The new agricultural strategy provides a direction to agricultural development, goals, and proposed measures.

This is an important measure for the preservation of rural areas and the continuity of agricultural production in areas where the conditions for these activities are less suitable than in the rest of the territory, as well as for the preservation of traditional landscapes and biodiversity. By continuing the implementation of special agricultural practices and methods, the importance of which some agricultural producers have already recognised, the Republic of Croatia confirms its commitment to reducing environmental pollution, preserving biodiversity, adopting a more humane approach to animal husbandry, and encouraging young people to open farms. 'This strategic plan must contribute to strengthening and increasing the income of agriculturalists at the level of the entire country, which is now at a low 44 percent of the average income in the Republic of Croatia', said Tugomir Majdak.

He expressed his satisfaction by presenting the plan to the alumni of his faculty, recalling his student days, the valuable professors with whom he had always worked, and the knowledge acquired during his studies.

Ana Matin, President of AMAC Alumni-FAZ

The Association of Graduates of the Geotechnical Faculty of the University of Zagreb has celebrated its 10th anniversary

On Thursday, 8th December 2022 the Association of Graduates of the Geotechnical Faculty of the University of Zagreb (AMAC-GFV) celebrated the 10th anniversary of their work and continuous activity in the Hotel Turist in Varaždin. About a hundred graduates from almost all generations gathered at the gala dinner—from geo-technicians who enrolled at the faculty back in 1985 to the last generation of environmental engineers. Those present were grateful to the celebration because they had the opportunity to socialise with colleagues whom they had not seen for a long time, to remember student days and events, to exchange information and acquired experiences, and all this while looking at the possibilities of mutual collaboration and helping their faculty in future. The attendees were greeted by the President of the Association, Dr. Sc. Ivana Presečki, the Dean of the Geotechnical Faculty; Assoc. Prof. Hrvoje Meaški, Ph.D. and the President of the Association of Societies of Former Students of the University of Zagreb - ALUMNI UNIZG, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D. Dean Meaški expressed his admiration for the gathered array of generations and encouraged everyone to get to know each other and socialise because acquaintances made at such events are usually fruitful and should be benefited from.



Alumni of the Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering

President of the Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., pointed out that this number of people gathered shows that the previous 10 years of work of the alumni association was successful, and that he was certain that the next 10 years would be even more successful. He also promised further support for the work of the Association through ALUMNI UNIZG. The event once again confirmed that the alumni were the true strength of their faculty, and although this was the first celebration, it will certainly not be the last.

Ivana Presečki, President of AMAC-GFV

AMCA Toronto in 2022

In the first post-pandemic year, live gatherings began in Toronto and the surrounding areas; so the AMCA Toronto Board of Directors organised several activities to engage its membership and the wider community. Online platforms for AMCA lectures continue to be used. At the annual assembly in February 2021, the association's work and financial results were presented, new ideas and projects for the next year were discussed, and former members of the Board of Directors were re-elected: Krešimir Mustapić as President and Stjepan Gotal as Secretary. Branka Bezić-Filipović was a guest in this year's series of lectures via Zoom in April. A frequent guest among the emigrant community, the long-time head of the split branch of the Croatian Heritage Foundation and the author of numerous books, Mrs. Bezić, spoke about Gabrijel Borić— the Chilean politicians of Croatian origin who became the new President of the Republic of Chile. During the lecture, his roots, and the attitude of Chilean Croats towards the new President were discussed. The lecturer referred to the importance of the Croatian community and its contributions to Chile's economic, scientific, artistic, and political development.

In October, Damir Vandelić, an alumnus of the University of Zagreb, held a well-attended lecture on the topic of corruption in certain institutions of the Republic of Croatia and reflected on recent events concerning INA. The successful entrepreneur and founder of the ZRIN think tank presented his view of current economic and political trends in Croatia, offered several constructive ideas to implement profound and systemic change, and introduce the rule of law in Croatia. At the end of the presentation, there were many questions and comments from the participants, especially the ones coming from Ljuba Đurđević, a lawyer at the Ontario Energy Board, who, in addition to several interesting questions, emphasised that regulatory institutions in Croatia should be strengthened, and explained how Canada and the province of Ontario regulate the energy sector. At the beginning of summer, the nature-loving members of AMCA took a trip to the Bruce Trail, the most famous hiking trail in southern Ontario. This year, two of our most prominent members continued to intensify their cooperation with institutions in the Republic of Croatia and connect associations within the emigrant community. The President of the association, Krešimir Mustapić, became a member of the Council of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for Croats outside Croatia. Nominated by the members of AMCA Toronto, Krešimir Mustapić will represent the Croats of Canada in his four-year term, presenting the views and needs of the wider community. Ana Bačić, vice-President of

AMCA Toronto, who is also the coordinator of Croatian programs in Canada, employed by the Ministry of Science and Education, has connected and networked Croatian schools in Canada over the past two years, with an emphasis on western Canada, where the greatest need for organising classes and programs at high school and college level was noticed. AMCA Toronto's 19th annual dinner was held on 4th November at the Baka Gallery Café in Toronto. The spokesman of the evening was State Secretary of the Central State Office for Croats abroad, Zvonko Milas. In his welcome speech, he thanked the members and the AMCA Toronto Committee for their efforts in maintaining activities in the Croatian community and emphasised the importance of maintaining the Croatian language and culture among the emigrant community. At dinner, the winners of two AMCA Toronto scholarships of \$1,500 each for 2022 were presented, which is already traditionally awarded to the most successful candidates: young people in the community or in the homeland. The new scholarship recipients were Toni Trstenjak, a third-year student of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Waterloo, and Josip Maršić, a third-year student of a double major (Biology and Commerce) at the University of Toronto.



AMCA Toronto Board of Directors and their scholarship recipients

After the joint singing of the student anthem *Gaudeamus*, along with light refreshments and Croatian wines, the guests were entertained by the well-known Toronto musician Emir Cerić. By the end of the year, we will hopefully have organised an online lecture on the reconstruction of the Zagreb Cathedral, for which we have sent an invitation to the main designer Damir Lazarević from the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the University of Zagreb. In 2022, we will wrap up the work of the AMCA Toronto Association with a Christmas party on 15th December which will be the second live Christmas gathering after a two-year hiatus during the pandemic.

Ana Bačić and Krešimir Mustapić

AMCA-Paris in 2022

The book 'AMCA-Paris / CHRONOLOGY from 1991 to 2021 – 30 years of work' was presented

On 12th October 2022 Mr. Damir Perinić's bilingual book *AMCA-Paris / CHRONOLOGY from 1991 to 2021 – 30 years of work* was presented on the premises of Matica Hrvatska. After Damir Perinić's welcome speech, Damir Boras, who was the Rector of the University of Zagreb between 2014 and 2022, Mario Šafran, the President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, and Neven Šimac, one of the founders of the AMCA Paris Association, addressed the audience.

Helena Jasna Mencer, the former Rector (2002-2006) of the University of Zagreb, Zvonimir Frka Petešić, head of the Prime Minister's Office, and Seadeta Midžić and Dino Milinović, two former attachés for culture of the Embassy in Paris, along with representatives of the alumni association of the University of Zagreb and other distinguished guests were also in attendance. Prof. Damir Boras, Ph.D. reflected on the importance and role that AMCA-Paris achieved during its 30 years of work with its activities and involvement, which greatly helped and contributed to the reputation of the Republic of Croatia and the University of Zagreb, the alma mater of most of the association's members. Establishing permanent ties with the alumni of our university had a positive effect on the visibility of Croatian science and culture in France, and AMCA-Paris created preconditions for further development of cooperation with various institutions and individuals in France. It is also extremely important to emphasise the cooperation between the University of Zagreb and the University of Orléans. He thanked all the members and friends of the AMCA-Paris alumni association for their many years of dedicated work and generous efforts to promote the alumni philosophy of socially responsible behaviour and wished them success and happiness in their future work. Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D. praised the involvement of the association and the systematic work it has exhibited in the past 30 years. The contribution and involvement dedicated to the planning and implementation of alumni activities is immeasurable and is a reminder that alumni are truly the strengths of our university. He believes that the book is a worthwhile contribution to posterity and a continuous source of encouragement for younger generations seeking to contribute to bettering Croatian society, and expresses gratitude to their university for providing solid foundations on which to build the future: theirs and that of generations to come. Neven Šimac spoke about the beginning of the establishment and the work AMCA-Paris had done, whose members gathered in the early nineties, in the midst of the Croatian War of Independence with the idea of raising public awareness in France to

recognising Croatia's independence. He said that the chronology accurately describes approximately 300 different events in which numerous Croatian artists and intellectuals participated, with the initial aim of organising aid to the homeland and later presenting Croatian culture abroad. He briefly summarised the journey and work of the author of the book Damir Perinić, to the audience, mostly referring to his career and involvement in the AMCA-Paris association. Damir Perinić said that the process of writing this chronology lasted for more than two and a half years and included a collection of numerous documents kept by former presidents, treasurers, and secretaries of the association. He recalled the early days of the work of the AMCA-Paris association and the activities that branched off in two directions: one related to its political activity and the other to the organisation of aid to the homeland through various charities. Along with this, the members of the Association organised a number of cultural, artistic, and scientific events and initiatives, and, as an example, he mentioned the project of placing a memorial plaque to the French-Croatian scientist Ruđer Jozip Bošković in Paris, as well as the installation of a replica of the sculpture 'Matoš na klupi' by Ivan Kozarić which depicts the Croatian poet A. G. Matoš sitting on a bench. It was placed in the Garden of a Thousand Roses in the Parisian suburbs of Issy-les-Moulineaux. He concluded by thanking the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, many Croatian cultural institutions, and all friends and sponsors for the moral and material support they have provided in the last 30 years. He also thanked Damir Boras for the University's support which financed part of the book's publication costs.

Paula Pavletić and Petra Lojen

A gathering with Mr. Nicolas Raljević

On 13th October of this year, a gathering was held with Mr. Nicolas Raljević, a professor of French, at the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Paris. The meeting was the initiative of and organised by the AMCA-Paris Association. It was dedicated to the 400th anniversary of Molière's birth, and the translations of two Dubrovnik comedies *Ilija Kujlaš* and *Andro Štitiček* were presented at the event. The translations were published that year by the publishing house Prozor (www.prozor-editions.com), which publishes and promotes classical and contemporary Croatian dramas translated into French. It is actually another of the many translations of Croatian dramas into French by Mr. Raljević, who has been translating Croatian dramatists into French for several years and publishing them in his own publishing house. It is an attempt to



Nicolas Raljević and guests

provide a wider insight into Croatian classical, modern, and contemporary dramatic literature that is not well known in France today. Among the many translations (around 120), we can single out Marin Držić's *Dundo Maroje* (Uncle Maroje), Miroslav Krleža's *The Glemboys*, and the works of Ivo Vojnović, Milan Begović...

In 2022, the Croatian Writers Society awarded him the Davidias Prize for the translation of Ma-

rin Držić's book *Dundo Maroje* into French. During his presentation on the reception of Molière in Croatia, Nicolas Raljević pointed out that these two comedies should be seen as original pieces of work that mix scenes inspired by Molière, references to commedia dell'arte, and the influence of Dubrovnik's popular comedy in prose from the 16th and 17th centuries. In Croatian literature, 'molièradas' (pieces of work inspired by Molière) are called 'frančezarije', and the term refers to texts from the 18th century inspired by the comedies of the great French playwright, and the story takes place in the Dubrovnik area. In the evening, excerpts from these two comedies were read and performed, and the audiences were able to discover what Molière sounds like in the local dialect. On this occasion, amateur actor Neven Gospodnetić joined the performance, who portrayed Ilija and Andro, and delighted the audience with his stage interpretation. The evening, as always, ended in a good spirit with a get-together accompanied by a pleasant conversation about this literary presentation.

Nicolas Raljević, Lamia Ruždić-Barbier

CROMed-USA: New Croatian medical association in the USA



For most Croatian medical doctors who live and practice medicine abroad, the day of receiving a diploma from one of the Croatian medical faculties meant the end of our connection to our Alma Mater. Living and working in the USA has shown us that this is the complete opposite of most American medical schools, where alumni remain connected to their universities for the rest of their lives. Therefore, this year, together with a group of Croatian medical doctors who were of the same opinion that Croatian alumni should preserve their connection with their Alma Mater, I decided to found an association of Croatian doctors in the USA. We named this association: CROMed-USA. The CROMed-USA association (Croatian Medical Alumni USA) is a non-profit and charitable organisation that aims to build strong and long-lasting ties between the Croatian doctors in the USA, and

the medical community in Croatia. Membership in our association will be open to all alumni of Croatian medical faculties in Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, and Osijek who currently or have lived and worked in the USA. The application form can be found on our website www.cromed-usa.org and can be filled electronically. The Croatian medical alumni association that we are developing in the US, unlike many other professional organisations that already exist, prides itself in providing a common sense of identity and purpose. We hope to connect with Croatian medical organisations and medical professionals in Croatia who deal with graduate and postgraduate medical education. Finally, we hope to connect with medical students and their organisations and doctors in the early stages of their careers and help them plan their future steps. CROMed-USA alumni believe in the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of medical education and want to provide support and mentoring to their young colleagues. We want to help them the best at every stage of their learning. Our central office is located in St. Louis, MO, USA. For those who want to learn more about us and connect with us, we refer you to our website www.cromed-usa.org; you can also follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Ksenija Kos, MD
President and Founder
CROMed-USA

Ivan Damjanov, Professor emeritus of the University of Kansas, USA: My studies in Zagreb in the sixties of the last century



In 2017, on the centenary of the School of Medicine in Zagreb, I wrote about some of my memories of my student days for the faculty blog ([/Mef.hr/mef.hr/Mef_2-2017_excerpt.pdf](#)). In order not to repeat myself, I looked at that text. I also tried to remember some other things and events from that time.

Enrolment in the School of Medicine

I enrolled at the School of Medicine in Zagreb in 1959 without an entrance exam. From my class, which graduated from the Classical Gymnasium in Zagreb that year, ten of us enrolled in Medicine. Only one of our colleagues dropped out after the first year and was transferred to another faculty, whereas the rest of us finished our medical studies more or less on time. I mention this to point out the importance of pre-college education and to praise our high school which obviously prepared us well for studying medicine. The first two years of medicine at that time were of an eliminatory nature, and many of my colleagues, who were not quite ready for university studies, gave up or were a year, two, or even more behind those who took the examinations on time. Even today, I believe that such a selection process, which was colloquially called the 'slaughter of the innocents', was an extremely irresponsible pedagogical approach towards those who were eliminated by the system during the first two years of studies. We, who 'survived' that cruel system of decimation, were quite frightened by potential failure. To avoid the worst, which was rarely discussed, we dedicated ourselves to the mindless repetition and memorisation of details, regardless of whether they were important or unimportant. Later, I found that such a selection of medical students is still carried out today in Switzerland be-

cause anyone who is a citizen with a high school diploma has the right to enrol in medical studies. However, for me, the example of a highly developed country does not justify what happened to us in the 1960s at Šalata in Zagreb. I would not recommend this form of study to anyone, and I still wonder if it really had to be that way. Personally, I think that the entrance exam for medicine, as it is conducted today in Zagreb, is probably a better solution, and an economically and psychologically more acceptable approach than the system we went through. At the same time, I hope that the School of Medicine cares more about its students today, especially those who have academic difficulties.

Classes

Classes at the School of Medicine took the form of lectures and practicums, which were often unrelated. There were no official textbooks for most courses in the first and second year. We learned from our own lecture notes and other students' compilations of notes that we bought at the beginning of the semester from older colleagues from the year above us. Notes highlighted in several colours with numerous annotations on each page were particularly valuable. Some of them were outdated, and we noticed errors only after we compared the data from various sources or with what the professor had said during the lectures. For example, in my biology notes, it was stated that human cells have 48 chromosomes, although the professor said that they actually had 46. When I later visited Lund, Sweden, as a fourth-year student, they showed me the building in which Tjio and Levan established the true number of chromosomes and published it three years before I began studying it in my first year of medicine. Just in case, I checked the following reference: Tjio JH and Levan A. *The chromosome number of man*. *Hereditas* 1956; 42: 1-6. It seems that in those days, it took a long time for new scientific discoveries to reach all of our notes at Šalata, or that I simply had some old notes. I do not know what medical freshmen study today, but during my time, first-year subjects (chemistry, physics, and most of biology) had nothing to do with clinical medicine. I still wonder why I had to learn the laws of thermodynamics and similar theoretical concepts with minimal or almost no meaning to medical professionals. In anatomy, we used to list the cusps on all the long bones of the body, but no one taught us how to transfer this knowledge to medical practice. The worst thing was that none of us, the students, knew what to remember, which details you absolutely had to know, or which could be ignored. Seminars and discussions with professors were almost non-existent, and each of us was left to use our own devices. At

that time, feedback mechanism between teachers and students was not considered an essential attribute of teaching.

Lectures

In the first few weeks of the first year, we all diligently attended our lectures, but later lectures dealing with clinical medicine were often skipped. I remember a lecture in physiology in my second year when Professor Ljubo Božović came one morning to a more-or-less empty large lecture hall. Only two participants sat in the first row. Counting himself as the third, he began the lecture by telling us the Latin proverb 'Tres faciunt collegium' and continued as if the hall was full. The quality of the lectures varied, but I did not experience particularly inspiring lectures until my third year when Prof. Pavle Sokolić appeared before us. He 'knocked us all off our feet' with his magical and theatrical performances. He talked about all kinds of things, but those did not matter because we all dreamed of becoming 'great doctors' like him.

Exam preparation, systematic work and first encounter with science

From the first day of my first year, I decided to study for a few hours each day. The question was how much time was necessary to spend on any exam, but no one had the answer. I solved this conundrum by asking my older colleagues how much and in what way they studied for a particular exam. Some told me that they studied every day for 2-3 hours throughout the year. Others told me that they had studied 15 hours a day for a month before the exam. I collected a large amount of data and calculated how long I should study for a particular exam. I divided the number of hours into weeks and studied for at least 20 hours each week, that is, four hours a day, five days a week. I never studied after 6 p.m. nor did I study on weekends, and I passed all exams of the first three years in the first week of the exam period. I recommend this approach to medical students. The system that I introduced in the first days of my studies was ideal for me because I had a lot of time for recreation, reading, movies, concerts, and theatre; from the second year onwards, I also started dealing with science at the Department of Biology with Professor Nikola Škreb. I presented the results of that work at the Congress of Medical Students, which took place in Ljubljana that year. I think that this 'extracurricular experience' and experimental work with rats was crucial for my later scientific work. Professor Škreb has remained my role model in my professional life. Even today, I believe that it is important for young people to choose heroes for themselves and follow them in their footsteps, as I followed Nikola Škreb.

Summer days, my first big investment and a compilation of notes

I worked as a tourist guide during the three summers. After the third summer, with the money I earned, I bought a typewriter from a store in Jurišičeva Street where smuggled goods from abroad were sold. I still remember that the Hermes baby typewriter cost me 85 000 dinars. As a tourist guide, my salary was 1 000 dinars per day, which meant that I had to work for longer time to earn enough money for that machine. This was my biggest investment in my student days. However, I still think it was worth it because I wrote a lot of my work on that machine before the age of computers came about in the last century. During my school years, I worked as a student assistant in a physiology practicum for which I was also paid. Each practicum was started by an assistant who disappeared immediately afterwards, and everything else was led by us, the student assistants. I think that is how I fell in love with teaching while working with the students. For these physiology practicums, we, the student assistants, gave each student half-torn and smeared mimeograph copies that had survived in the laboratory for several years. As I had learned to type, I mustered my courage and went to Professor Nikša Allegretti, the head of the Department of Physiology. I suggested to him that I draw up a compilation of notes for the physiology practicum. I also asked him if he would find the time to read what I intended to write. He agreed and told me to begin writing. We agreed that he and I would meet once a week in his office after 4:00 pm and review my work together. I could not believe that a professor would devote much time for me, but I still remembered being ecstatic. For us, Professor Allegretti was like a 'demigod'. I could not understand how a man of his rank could stoop to the level of an unimportant student like me. On the other hand, at the Institute of Physiology, there were already other notes that were also written by students, such as Milivoj Boranić. This encouraged me to complete the notes for the physiology practicum by the end of my fourth year with the help of the professor. In the preface to those notes, I signed myself as 'compiler'. Many years later, I compiled an English pathology book. I remembered my role as a 'compiler' of those student notes in physiology. It was as if nothing had changed because, in the preface of the pathology textbook in 1995, I quoted the words of Dr. William Mayo, founder of the Mayo Clinic: 'We simply collect good ideas, then we tie them with a ribbon like a bouquet of flowers. We can only take credit for that ribbon'.

Oral exams

Unlike the exams I took in the USA in written form, all my exams at the School of Medicine in Zagreb (except statistics) were oral. The first real medical exam that I passed in my life was an exam to validate my degree in the USA. After passing

the American exam, it became clear to me that knowledge can be tested in several ways and that there is a high degree of correlation between the grades a student gets on an oral and a well-made written exam. To this day, I still do not understand why medical professors in Zagreb struggle with oral exams because knowledge can be tested much more simply and objectively in written exams that contain questions with five possible answers, of which only one is correct (multiple-choice questions). However, that is a story for another time, because I do not believe that I will be able to convince my fellow teachers in Zagreb to give up oral exams. Instead, I would rather say a word or two, or even an anecdote about oral exams. In the first three years of college, I passed all exams with the highest grade (five) or excellent, as it was called at that time. I then went to take an exam in internal medicine, which was taken together with a special pathology. That exam remained permanently engraved in my memory because that was when I got the first four (very good) score in my gradebook. I really liked internal medicine, and I think I knew the whole book well. I studied special pathology from an American textbook, and I thought I knew more than what was expected of us. That is why I was terribly disappointed with my grade. I said to myself, 'That's not fair, to hell with everything. I have had enough; I just want to graduate as soon as possible'. I took exams one after another, and I did not worry about my grades after that. I passed my last exam in June 1964, 15 days after my fifth year of study. By the end of my studies, my grades were still quite good except for a three (good) in otolaryngology and two (sufficient) in forensic medicine. The professor of otolaryngology asked me only one question: 'Could you list nine causes of bad breath ("foetor ex ore")'? The answer to this question was not in my notes; therefore, I started improvising and listed three potential causes. The professor was in a rush, so he said to me: 'If you only know three causes, hand me the gradebook so I can give you a 3. Do you think that is fair?' I gave him an affirmative answer and received my first three. Something similar happened to me during the exam in forensic medicine. The professor was very nervous and wanted to end the exam as soon as possible. Therefore, after two or three questions, she told me that I had no idea what I was talking about. She also told me that she should fail me but that she could not imagine seeing me one more time; so she would give me a minimum passing grade. After that, she leafed through my gradebook and saw all those excellent grades; so she started apologising for lowering my grade-point average. I was happy that I did not have to come to her again for the exam; so, I told her not to worry about my average and not to change the grades she had already entered in the gradebook. No other grade made me as happy as the one in forensic medicine.

As you can see, I love talking about this experience. In my tirade against oral exams, my story about how I passed the exams in neurology and psychiatry is worth mentioning. The two examinations were taken together in front of one examiner. As before, we consulted older students who had already passed the exam. Older students always liked sharing tips about exam questions and examiners. One of them gave me the following advice: 'Go to the secretary who receives the application forms for the exam and give her a box of chocolates. Giving her a nice smile and asking her if she could put your application form on the pile with students who will be examined by a professor of psychiatry, not a professor of neurology'. The rumour among students was that examining psychiatrists only knew 5-6 major neurological diseases, such as strokes, tumours, or multiple sclerosis. The older students advised us that we did not need to study all other neurological diseases because the professor of psychiatry would not ask us about them. As I was interested in psychiatry and even thought of becoming a psychiatrist, for the exam, I mostly learned about psychiatric diseases and got an excellent grade. Unfortunately, my knowledge in neurology remained relatively scarce.

A coda as a thank you

A coda in a musical composition containing the final notes, which are the two final steps in the ballet pas de deux. I will list a few words and quotes that refer to what I previously wrote about the past with a view on the future. After graduating, I worked at the University of Kansas Medical Centre in Kansas City for 24 years. During these years, I have learned many things, especially from my students, interns, and younger colleagues. I learned many wise sayings from my colleagues. I would like to quote one of them here because it refers to my student days: 師傅領進門，修行在個人

I don't know Chinese, but I know what it means: 'Teachers will open the door for you, but you will have to go through it yourself'. I am grateful to all my professors for opening the door to me, and I am pleased that I realised early in my life that I had to go through them myself. I learned the meaning of gratitude from psychologist Jonathan Haidt's book *The Righteous Mind*. Haidt says that giving thanks does not mean paying off old debts or settling accounts from the past; rather, we give thanks to strengthen or refresh relationships with the people we care about. Therefore, I would like to thank Dr. Ana Borovečka and her colleagues from the ALUMNI UNIZG Association for inviting me to write this piece and record some of my memories of my studies at the School of Medicine in Zagreb from 1959 to 1964 for the new generation of students. Barack Obama's motto, which brought him to the presidency in the USA, and in this case, as a message for all alumni of our University: 'Yes, we can!'



Viktor Žmegač
(1929. – 2022.)

Viktor Žmegač, Professor emeritus of the University of Zagreb, world-renowned Germanist and one of the leading contemporary Croatian intellectuals, died in Zagreb on 20th July 2022 at the age of 94. An early fascination with literature led Žmegač, who was born in 1929 in Slatina to a bilingual Croatian-German family, to study German and South Slavic philology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zagreb. He closely observed the emergence of the Zagreb School of Stylistics and joined a group of philologists in the mid-1950s, who elevated Croatian literary science to the top of the discipline. Žmegač would go on to provide contributions to this field of research, based on the so-called immanent approach to a literary work, that would supplement the then-dominant method of literary studies in a very innovative way with sociologically and culturally inspired approaches. Recognisable in Žmegač's scientific beginnings, for example in his dissertation on music in the work of Thomas Mann (1959), this unique methodology of his would have its first peak in the literary-historical accounts of German literature; first the brief, 'small' History of German Literature, written in collaboration with Zagreb colleagues Zdenko Škreb and Ljerka Sekulić, which would also experience its very successful German edition. This was followed by the 'great' history of more recent German literature, which was titled *Geschichte der deutschen Literatur vom 18. Jahrhundert bis zur Gegenwart* (1978-1984), written in collaboration with the then leading Germanists from the German language area, and Žmegač as editors and co-author. It became and remained the most respected literary and historiographical work of the Germanist profession for decades. Žmegač's central work of the 1980s is undoubtedly the Historical Poetics of the Novel (1987), a broad-based presentation of the main tendencies in the history of the European novel; a work that the author rewrote in German and then published with the title *Der europäische Roman*, with great acclaim from

professional critics, *Geschichte seiner Poetik* (1990). In collaboration with the distinguished German Germanist Dieter Borchmeyer, he wrote and published a theoretical manual on the fundamental concepts of modern literature, *Moderne Literatur in Grundbegriffen* (1987). This is also the time when Žmegač, in his research, places an increasingly strong emphasis on modern literature and culture in 1900s, both Croatian and German, especially Austrian. The results of this long-standing interest are visible in numerous publications, in German (*Deutsche Literatur der Jahrhundertwende*, 1981) and in Croatian (*Vička moderna. Portret jedne kulture*, 1998). The latter, a brilliant presentation of the basic tendencies of Viennese literature, philosophy, music, and painting at the turn of the century, heralds a whole series of cultural history books in the Croatian language in which Žmegač presented his exceptionally expert knowledge of history and cultural theory in a format accessible to every educated reader. The highlights of Žmegač's cultural-historical production in the last two decades of his life are represented by the history of the culture of the German language area under the title *From Bach to Bauhaus* (2007), a cross section of the history of European music *Maestros of European Music* (2009) and a presentation of the fundamental artistic movements of the 20th century *Passion and Constructivism of the Spirit* (2014); works that are unique in their scope and depth of insight not only in Croatian, but also in European culture. Viktor Žmegač, who grew up in the circle of literary scholars in Zagreb, spread the word about Croatian German studies and Croatian literature around the world and significantly contributed to its reputation. Belonging, for many years, to the top of European literary science, Žmegač also belonged to that circle of Croatian scientists who represented an unquestionable world authority in their field. With his work, he will certainly leave one of the deepest marks in Croatian humanities in the 20th and early 21st centuries.

Prof. Marijan Bobinac, Ph.D.

Dies Academicus of the University of Zagreb



Deans and the Administration of the University of Zagreb (November 3)

The University of Zagreb Day was marked this year with two ceremonies: on 3rd November, in the auditorium of the University of Zagreb and on 9th November, at the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology. At the first ceremony, the Rector, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. presented awards and recognitions that could not be presented previously due to the impossibility of holding the ceremony live due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On that occasion, the honorary titles of Professor Emeritus of the University of Zagreb and the Fran Bošnjaković, Andrija Mohorovičić and Ars umma Universitatis awards for 2020 were awarded. In addition, commemorative medals were awarded to full professors at the University of Zagreb who retired in the academic year 2021-2022. Prof. Vedran Mornar, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing received the Fran Bošnjaković Award, and Prof. Zoran Vondraček, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Science received the Andrija Mohorovičić Award. The Ars summa Universitatis Award was awarded to Prof. art. Ines Krasić from the Academy of Fine Arts and Art. Nenad Fabijanić, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb. The second part of the celebration of the University of Zagreb Day, held on 9th November 2022 at the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, began with an address by the Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. Subsequently, numerous dignitaries addressed the audience. In his address, the Rector, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. presented the current situation at the University of Zagreb and pointed out that ‘the University is facing several challenges and should take the position of an active co-creator of the development of Croatia...’ He commented on the strength of the University of Zagreb and its alumni ‘...our alumni hold some of the most important functions in society, from top businessmen to ministers. When we say that the University is the central force of our society, then it is in the sense that it can provide key and responsible functions... Through education, we create new generations who carry knowledge so that they can have a better tomorrow, so that they

would be more successful. This is the biggest responsibility of our university’. Furthermore, Rector Lakušić referred to the short- and long-term goals of the university’s new administration in the next period and pointed out that the reconstruction of buildings damaged in the earthquake is one of the most difficult tasks. He also emphasised the importance of innovations at the University through which the University will be promoted as a ‘faithful partner in entrepreneurship’ and highlighted the new concept of the University in which the student is at the centre.

After the Rector’s speech, 21 honorary professor emeritus titles for 2022 were awarded. The Special Rector’s Awards were also awarded to students that achieved success of international importance in the academic year 2021-2022: Andrija Tomić, a student at the Academy of Dramatic Art, Gordana Borotić, a student at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Luka Vidan, a student at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, Iva Račka, a student at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Antonija Ljulja, a student at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, and Manuela Miloš, a student of the School of Dental Medicine. The Fran Bošnjaković Award was awarded to Prof. Marica Ivanković, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology and Prof. Mario Vašak, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing. The Andrija Štampar Award was awarded to Prof. Marijan Klarica, Ph.D. from the School of Medicine, Prof. Mirjana Kujundžić Tiljak, Ph.D. from the School of Medicine, Prof. Hrvoje Brkić, Ph.D. from the School of Dental Medicine and Prof. Željko Maleš, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry. The Andrija Mohorovičić Award was awarded to Prof. Zlatko Drmač, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Science and Prof. Silvana Raić-Malić, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology. The Ars summa Universitatis Award was awarded to Assoc. Prof. art. Branko Linta from the Academy of Dramatic Arts, Assoc. Prof. art. Zlatko Kapetanović from the Faculty of Architecture, Assoc. Prof. art. Nicole Hewitt of the Academy of Fine Arts and Assoc. Prof. art. Darko Petrinjak from the Academy of Music. The University Innovation of the Year Award was given to Prof. Dubravko Rogale, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Textile Technology. The Innovator of the Year Award was awarded to Prof. Gabrijel Ondrašek, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Agriculture and Filip Kranjčec, MSc in Agricultural Engineering, and the Award for the Most Successful Technology Transfer of the University of Zagreb in 2022 was awarded to Prof. Dejana Bouillet, Ph.D., from the Faculty of Teacher Education.

source: University website