

ALUMNI UNIZG

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ALUMNI
UNIVERSITATIS
STUDIORUM
ZAGRABIENSIS



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

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It is my pleasure to present the 30th issue of Glasnik bringing you a wealth of information on alumni activities and other news from our university. With great pride, we present our colleagues, AMCA Paris association, AMACIZ association, and the Academic Choir "Vladimir Prelog" who celebrate their thirtieth jubilee this year.

We have been able to publish the current and the previous, 29th issue of Glasnik in English. We hope the subsequent issues will also be published in English, French, or some other language to keep everyone infor-

med about the endeavors of the University of Zagreb and its alumni.

The ALUMNI UNIZG Association held its Electoral Assembly and a new Board of Directors was elected. I take this opportunity to thank the former members of the Board and welcome the new members. You can read more about the Assembly and the new Board of Directors in this issue of Glasnik. In addition, as per usual, we bring the news about the work of our other alumni societies and associations. The alumni of the Department of Chemical Technology, now FKIT, got together after 60 years, and we share the good vibes from their reunion. In the section Prominent Alumni, we present our colleague Bartol Šimunić. We also looked back on World Teachers' Day and the Day of the Faculty of Teacher Education.

In the section In memoriam, we honor the roles and contributions of two great scientists, Nenad Trinajstić FCA and Vladimir Bermanec FCA.

Finally, we bring you a summary of news from the University, from the celebration of the University of Zagreb Day to other important news about the day-to-day activities of the University of Zagreb.

I hope you will find Glasnik interesting and informative, and I wish you all the best!

Yours truly, Mario

CONTENT

INTERVIEW WITH THE RECTOR	1
ALUMNI UNIZG ASSOCIATION - ASSEMBLY MEETING	4
ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS - CONTRIBUTIONS	8
EMINENT ALUMNI	25
IN MEMORIAM	27
UNIVERSITY NEWS	28

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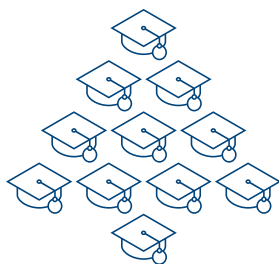
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Blagoslovljen Božić i sretna nova godina
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Sveučilište u
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This Herald is also published on the website:

<http://www.unizg.hr/suradnja/alumni-i-zaklada-sveucilista/alumni/alumni-unizg-glasnik>

The University of Zagreb is a pillar of Croatian society



Throughout the 353 years of its existence, the University of Zagreb has held its role as a pillar institution of higher education, science, culture, art, technology transfer, knowledge, and social activities in Croatia. Organized as a public university that covers a comprehensive range of scientific and artistic fields and research and teaching activities, it is known for preserving the Humboldtian university tradition. We talked to the rector of the University of Zagreb, Damir Boras about the domestic and international status of the University of Zagreb, the challenges it is facing, and the strategy for keeping the highly-educated young people in Croatia.

You have been the Rector of the University of Zagreb since 2014. Today, after almost two terms, how do you assess your work and the domestic and international status of the University of Zagreb?

The importance of the University of Zagreb is best illustrated by data from the last report of the Central Bureau of Statistics for 2019. Namely, of the 33,704 students who completed university or professional studies at public and private higher education institutions in Croatia, 12,440 or 36.9% were students of the University of Zagreb. Of the 680 doctoral students who earned their degree, 476 or 70% completed their studies at the University of Zagreb. Of the 8,227 teachers and teaching assistants employed full-time at higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia in the academic year 2019/2020, 5,571 or 67.7% were from the University of Zagreb. In addition, I would like to point out that as many as two-thirds

of the teaching staff at the University of Zagreb has a doctoral degree. This clearly illustrates the value, size, and importance of the University of Zagreb in Croatian education and particularly in the higher education system. The University of Zagreb is the highest-ranking Croatian university on the Shanghai list (ARWU - Academic Ranking of World Universities), QS World Universities Ranking, the CWUR - Center for World University Rankings, Leiden list (CTWS), Scimago list, and on the Webometrics list of world universities, while on the Times Higher Education list, it ranks the same as the University of Split. The University of Zagreb is the top Croatian higher-education institution based on the total number of published scientific papers listed in international databases, and the total number of scientific papers published in the renowned journals Nature and Science in the last five years. Based on the number of filed patents, according to the Google Patents service, the University of Zagreb is the leading Croatian academic institution, running the Ruđer Bošković Institute close. Based on the number of awards won at international and domestic innovation fairs, however, the University of Zagreb is the most successful institution in Croatia. In the last seven years, fifteen University components have earned as many as 220 awards for their innovative projects. That is why the University of Zagreb has declared 2021 the Year of Innovation. Our University is not only a source and generator of experts for the needs of the economy, research, and development

in the Republic of Croatia, but also a base of experts for dealing with emergencies, such as earthquakes in Zagreb and Banovina or pandemics caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus.

I would like to emphasize that the University owes its continuity and progress to its teachers, researchers, and all its employees. I have advocated for greater autonomy of the faculties and art academies, and I would like to underline their successful management of the University components since I took this position. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the vice-rectors and Rectorate's administrative and technical services, as well as to university bodies such as the science councils, and numerous committees and commissions. When I took the position of rector, I came across certain problems, but I must point out that the organization and conditions at the University reflected the considerable effort and successful work that the previous rectors had put into it.

During my two terms, I have successfully collaborated with almost all Ministers of Science and Education, and I would like to emphasize the excellent cooperation with the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, especially with its former president, Zvonko Kusić.

Unfortunately, our institution, like some other universities in Croatia, did not always receive adequate support from state bodies. I would like to remind you that we have successfully resisted the adoption of laws on science and higher education that would have reduced the funding and the autonomy of universities. Also, together with some other universities, we refused to agree to the unfavorable program agreements for the University which, among other things, could have led some of our constituents to a financial crisis. We advocated increasing the funding for research and development, which stalled at about 0.86% of GDP for three years, increased to 0.97% of GDP in 2018, and to 1.11% of GDP in 2019, but remains greatly insufficient compared to the European average of 2.11% of GDP in 2019. As if the words which were spoken four years ago by the Governor of the Croatian National Bank, Boris Vujčić remain unheard: "Croatia's investments in research and development are among the lowest, and our innovation system is among the weakest, which greatly affects competitiveness. Therefore, we must prioritize investments in human capital and research and development." Unfortunately, the work of the university is affected by the shortcomings and illogicalities of the new Collective Agreement for Science and Higher Education, which was signed without considering either the Rector's Assembly or the University of Zagreb as a relevant party and requires improvement.

Both the University and the society are facing significant challenges. Are these the greatest trials

the University has faced in the past hundred years?

Let us remember that 102 years ago, the "Croatian University of Zagreb" was renamed the "University of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes" by the ban's order, and 92 years ago it changed its name again to the "University of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia". Serbian University Law introduced in Croatia in 1926 brought along some improvements, followed by numerous changes to the legal status of the University and its bodies, including the abolition of the faculties' legal entity up until the establishment of the Banovina of Croatia in 1940 when some autonomy was also lost as the rector and dean appointments required approval from the Croatian ban. Both world wars and the Croatian Spring of 1971 were equally challenging for the University of Zagreb. However, I think what put the University of Zagreb to the greatest test in the last hundred years were the consequences of the earthquake of March 22, 2020, and the adjustment to the educational environment of the COVID-19 pandemic officially declared in Croatia only ten days before the earthquake. The University of Zagreb has proved to be able to successfully deal with such difficult issues and provide irreplaceable support for the Croatian society and the government. And it will continue doing so in the future. The employees, scientists, and students of the School of Medicine in Zagreb showed great social responsibility and took on major roles during the pandemic. The experts at the Faculties of Civil Engineering, Geodesy, and Architecture gave an irreplaceable and invaluable contribution to mitigating the consequences of the earthquake. The entire University of Zagreb has successfully switched to combined and distance learning imposed by the pandemic restrictions without significantly affecting the educational processes. We might face social, economic, and technological changes in the near future. The support of the experts at the Faculty of Economics will be indispensable during the economic transitions. The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing will be at the forefront of technological adaptation and development related to Industry 4.0, i.e., the fourth industrial revolution, in the academic and social community. The need to increase domestic production in response to the potential increase in food prices will validate the social value of the Faculties of Agriculture, Forestry and Wood Technology, Veterinary Medicine, and Food Technology and Biotechnology as well as the School of Medicine. Vaccines and antiviral drugs have shown potential in resolving the health crisis, which is where I see the role of the School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry. Fundamental science will remain of great importance for economic development, which makes training STEM experts a common

priority, and here I expect all faculties of technical, biotechnical, and natural sciences to play their part. Geostrategically, uncertainty is gradually growing across the world, and strengthening the defense capabilities of the Republic of Croatia would be a valuable contribution of the Military Studies that we deliver through the collaboration of different constituents of the University of Zagreb with the Croatian Military Academy “Dr. Franjo Tuđman”, and in the future in cooperation with the new University of Defense and Security. We are all aware that the preservation of Croatian culture and identity and the Croatian language is an essential, increasingly important task of the University of Zagreb. Not only in Croatia but also in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the whole region, so we should not forget the continual role of our Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Teacher Education and, particularly, art academies, as well as the Faculty of Croatian Studies, which we have successfully transformed from a university department into a faculty. The University of Zagreb and its constituents will continue to act in accordance with common interests and needs wherever and whenever they arise.

What else lies ahead of the current management of the University, but also, of the next rector and the management that will take office in a year?

Firstly, protecting the University of Zagreb as an institution, its components, activities, and employees while keeping in mind the legislative framework, research and development funding, program agreements, European projects, and other relevant documents. Secondly, protecting the interests of our students and providing educational, health, and social support, assuming that pandemic conditions will reoccur cyclically, improving and worsening in waves, possibly for the next two or three years. Top-quality education remains our lasting goal, as evident from the consistently high grade averages of our teachers and teaching assistants. And of course, further improving the scientific work despite the volatile and insufficient funding. Renovating university buildings and infrastructure damaged by the earthquake is yet another important task that lies ahead of us. We expect to see more opportunities to apply for the EU funding to construct new buildings and extensions for the constituents of the University of Zagreb, that have been suspended for more than five years because these plans were not included in the Operational Program Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014-2020, which I consider a great strategic mistake.

Keeping in mind the fact that many young people, especially our top students, continue their education or find employment abroad after graduation, how do we keep these young, well-educat-

ed people in Croatia? (Especially considering the fact that education is free?)

Brain drain is one of the most serious problems Croatia is facing today. This negative trend is a direct consequence of the bad economic situation, but also the marginalization of science and the declining investment in the education system in Croatia. The state must meet the financial prerequisites, improve the economic conditions, the economy, create the conditions for young professionals to stay in their homeland. At the same time, of course, significantly increase the investments in science and higher education.

In the Anglo-Saxon tradition, alumni are associated with donations and lasting connections and promotion of their alma mater. What are things like in Croatia?

Volunteering on a professional level shows that the University of Zagreb is still the main Croatian scientific, teaching, social, and cultural institution that moves our homeland forward. During the pandemic and the devastating earthquakes, the alumni of the Faculty of Teacher Education have demonstrated how well organized they are. The alumni of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, structural engineers, responded promptly volunteering from the first day, providing their knowledge, time, and service. Of course, the alumni of the School of Medicine have been indispensable in fighting the coronavirus from the very beginning. On this occasion, I would like to commend the enthusiasm of our experts and student volunteers, who, without thinking about themselves, simply wanted to help.

What is your message to the students and alumni of the University of Zagreb?

The entire academic community, every student and professor will face great challenges in the days and months ahead. During its 350-years-long history, the University of Zagreb has always shared and continues to share in the fate of the Croatian state, the Croatian people, and all its inhabitants. The time ahead will make each of us, without exception, “live the history”, and demonstrate strength and endurance, thoughtfulness and adaptability, patience and perseverance, and above all kindness and consideration. I wish everyone good health, and success in overcoming the difficulties they will face. Finally, I wish our University of Zagreb stays successful and based on the Humboldtian University principles and to remain a true community of teachers, researchers, students, and alumni serving them all, the economy, the society, and above all our Croatian homeland by preserving all universal and constitutional values. I urge all our alumni not to disregard their University and to forge strong ties with its former and current students.

Interview by Iva Budimir

Electoral Assembly of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association

The Faculty of Teacher Education of the University of Zagreb hosted the Electoral Assembly of the Association of societies of former students of the University of Zagreb - ALUMNI UNIZG on Thursday, July 1, 2021. About fifty alumni attended the Assembly, mostly presidents and representatives of alumni associations of the constituent parts of the University of Zagreb, as well as deans and vice-deans of respective faculties. The solemn gathering commenced with the academic anthem *Gaudeamus igitur*, followed by the welcome address of the President of the Board of Directors of the Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D. who greeted all the gathered guests and alumni of our University.



Group photo of the Assembly participants

The dean of the Faculty of Teacher Education, Prof. Siniša Opić, Ph.D., our host, emphasized the importance of the teachers and highlighted the transfer of knowledge to children as the most important thing we have in society. He commented on the invaluable role of the alumni, especially in times of pandemics and earthquakes, when both students and alumni of the Faculty of Teacher Education made significant contributions and aided the community. In conclusion, he pointed out that funding education is the best investment of any society and wished the Association continued success. The guests were then addressed by Prof. Damir Boras, Ph.D., who reminded them that its scientists, students, and alumni, have earned the University of Zagreb a considerable reputation in the domestic and foreign markets. He pointed out that the goals and the mission of our university are to create accountable, broad-minded, and open-minded, highly educated citizens, and wished all those present to continue their work toward this aim. He thanked prof. Šafran for his engagement, hoping that the University and the ALUMNI UNIZG Association will continue their fruitful collaboration.

The formal part of the assembly followed the welcome speeches, and the President of the Association submitted the Work Report for the period from 2017 to 2021. He took the occasion to extend special thanks to the members of the bodies of the Association who served a four-year term: the Board of Directors, the Supervisory Board, and the



Rector Boras addresses the Assembly participants

Court of Honor.

In his Report, he focused on the most prominent activities of the Association, emphasizing the *My/our alumni story* where prominent alumni talk about their student days and the impact their alma mater had on the development of their personal and professional life. The lectures seek to attract as many alumni as possible and to highlight the importance of their connection with their University and vice versa. He reported that five issues of Glasnik have been published in the last four years, and the last, 29th issue of Glasnik - dedicated to the earthquake and coronavirus pandemic, has also been translated into English. The project of assigning e-mail addresses with an alumni domain has been continued successfully, with the database currently comprising about a thousand alumni alias addresses.



Mario Šafran reports on the work of the Association

After submitting the report, the president of the Association awarded special recognitions to the alumni associations and faculties that made invaluable contributions and assisted the entire community during the pandemic.

ALUMNI UNIZG Association gave special recognitions to:

- Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb, for their outstanding contribution in organizing and coordinating volunteer teachers, students, and alumni, in organizing classes, and providing various forms of assistance to educators, teachers, children, and students during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in earthquake-affected



Dean Opic receives the recognition on behalf of the Faculty of Teacher Education

ted areas.

- School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, for their outstanding contribution in organizing and coordinating volunteer teachers, students, and alumni to fight and impede the COVID-19 pandemic.



Nada Čikeš receives the recognition on behalf of the School of Medicine

- Alumni Association AMCA Toronto and President Krešimir Mustapić for their contribution in promoting Croatian culture and alumni culture in Canada and organizing the fundraising for the Red Cross to help the citizens of the Republic of Croatia in the aftermath of the earthquake.

After the award ceremony, the present members of the Assembly began voting for the President and members of the bodies of the Association for the 2021-2025 term. Thus, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D. of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, the current president of the Association and the vice-president of the AMAC-FSC association has been reelected as the President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association. The elected members of the Board of Directors are Prof. Ivan Alajbeg, Ph.D. (AMA SFZG), Prof. Ana Borovečki, Ph.D. (AMAMUZ), Assist. Prof. Martina Kolar Billege, Ph.D. (AMAC-UFZG), Prof. Mirela Leskovac, Ph.D. (AMACIZ), Assoc. Prof. Ana Matin, Ph.D. (AMAC-Alumni FAZ). Krešimir Mustapić (AMCA Toronto) and Lamiya Ruždić-Barbier (AMCA-Paris) were elected as coordinators of associate members. The elected members of the Supervisory Board are Prof. Hrvoje Brkić, Ph.D. (AMA SFZG), Assist. Prof. Vanja Jurišić, Ph.D. (AMAC-Alumni FAZ), and Prof. Jelena Macan, Ph.D. (AMACIZ), and the Members of the Court of Honor are: Stjepan Gotal (AMCA Toronto), Krunoslav Kovačević (AMACIZ) and Marijan Špiljak (AMCA TTF).

During the reception organized by the Student Center of the University of Zagreb that followed the Assembly, the members of the Association exchanged their experiences and ideas related to the alumni work.

New members of the Board of Directors

According to the art. 18 of the Statute of the Association, the Board of Directors has a total of nine members including the President of the Association, five members elected among the regular members of the Association, one representative of the associate members of the Association elected by the coordinators who are elected by the Assembly, the Vice-Rector of the University of Zagreb appointed by the Rector, and the secretary of the Association who is an employee of the Rectorate of the University of Zagreb approved by the Board of Directors at the constitutive session. The coordinators elected Mr. Krešimir Mustapić as a member of the Presidency, and Rector Boras approved the current member of the Full Prof. Mladen Janjanin. Below we introduce the newly elected members of the Board. You can read about the current members in the 25th issue of our Glasnik available on the website of the Association within the portal of the University of Zagreb (www.unizg.hr).



Prof. Ivan Alajbeg, Ph.D.

Ivan Alajbeg graduated from the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb in 1996, where he received his master's and doctoral degrees and continued his scientific and teaching career in the field of oral medicine and oral oncology. He was elected a full professor in 2021. He is a member of numerous domestic and international scientific and professional organizations, and in some of them, he is currently holding or has held high positions. In 2013, he initiated the founding of the School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association, and he was also elected the first president of the AMA SFZG, a position he held until 2019. From the very beginning, he took an active part in the activities of the association, such as class gatherings twice a year, educating younger colleagues about the importance of maintaining a close relationship with your University, encouraging collaboration with the alumni of the School of Dental Medicine

to organize student internships, and among other alumni duties, he is a member of the Editorial Board of the Magazine of the School of Dental Medicine that promotes alumni culture. He is involved in the work of the Assembly and the events organized by the ALUMNI UNIZG Association on behalf of AMA SFZG.



Prof. Ana Borovečki, Ph.D.

Ana Borovečki was born in Zagreb, where she studied and graduated in 1998 from the School of Medicine of the University of Zagreb. In 2000 she graduated in philosophy and comparative literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb under the mentorship of Prof. Andrea Zlatar, and in 2004 she received her master's degree in European Masters in Bioethics from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. She received her Ph.D. in 2007 from the University of Radboud in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, for her thesis *Ethics committees in Croatia*. She specialized in clinical pharmacology and toxicology in 2008. She has a master's degree in public health and works at the Andrija Štampar School of Public Health as an associate professor. She has been a member of the Alumni Association of the School of Medicine, AMAMUZ since 2017 when she was elected secretary of the Association at the annual assembly, a position she still holds today. She is actively involved in all alumni activities of the association.



Prof. Mirela Leskovac, Ph.D.

Mirela Leskovac is a full professor at the Department of Surface Engineering of Polymer Materials of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and

Technology, University of Zagreb. She teaches undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral studies at FKIT. She has been a member of the first alumni society founded at the University of Zagreb, the Society of Friends of Chemical Technology Studies (AMACIZ) since 1995, and has been actively involved in the work of the association. As the head of the association's Section for Scientific and Professional Development from 2005 to 2009, she organized about fifty lectures by scientists and experts from Croatia and abroad. She has demonstrated exemplary leadership as the secretary of the Society, coordinating the activities of all its sections since 2015. She served a term as the President of the Supervisory Board (from 2009 to 2013), and two terms as the President of the Honorary Court (from 2013 to 2017 and from 2017 to 2021) of the Alliance of Alumni Associations of the University of Zagreb.



Assoc. Prof. Ana Matin, Ph.D.

Ana Matin was born in Zagreb, where she graduated in 2003 from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb. She started her career in September 2004 as a research assistant at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, where she defended her doctoral dissertation in 2012. She was promoted to associate professor in 2020. Her scientific and professional interests include the technology of processing and storage of agricultural products, the technology of processing and storage of flowers, the technology of animal feed production, and biomass as a renewable energy source. From 2016 to 2021 she was a member of the Board of Directors and the Secretary of the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb AMAC-Alumni FAZ (*Almae matris Alumni Croaticae - Facultas Agriculturae Zagrabiensis*). From 2017 to 2021, she was a member of the Supervisory Board of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association. In 2021, she was elected president of the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb - AMAC-Alumni FAZ.

Roundtable discussion *Reviving the work of the alumni associations of the University of Zagreb*

After electing the president and members of the bodies of the Association, the Assembly continued



The roundtable panelists

with a roundtable discussion *Reviving the work of the alumni associations of the University of Zagreb*. The discussion was moderated by Mario Šafran, and the participants were: Ivan Alajbeg (President of AMA SFZG), Damir Markučić (Vice President of AMAC FSB), Ana Matin (President of AMAC-Alumni FAZ), and Krešimir Mustapić (President of AMCA Toronto). During the discussion, the participants presented the work of their associations, pointed out the peculiarities in their work and the challenges they face in their daily activities. Representatives of associations gave examples of best practices they employ in their activities aimed at attracting, involving, motivating, and connecting alumni, students, and the wider business community to ensure the prosperity of the individuals and the Republic of Croatia.

Assoc. Prof. Ana Matin, the newly elected president of the Faculty of Agriculture Alumni Association, believes the biggest challenge is attracting and recruiting new members because graduates are reluctant to return to the faculty once they complete their studies. The Association organizes the *Agronomists' ball*, various roundtable discussions, and professional gatherings, and to raise funds for student scholarships they have linked the work of the Association with the Foundation of the Faculty of Agriculture. The Faculty of Agriculture also has an Office of Career Counseling, which is closely connected with the alumni, and every student receives a membership form for the Alumni Association at graduation.

Prof. Ivan Alajbeg believes the faculties need to find ways to inspire feelings of pride and gratitude in students making them intrinsically motivated to join the Alumni Association after graduation and possibly take part in the association's activities and engage current students. School of Dental Medicine Association organizes class gatherings and various dentistry courses to maintain communication with the alumni. He mentioned that one of the ways they keep in touch with the alumni is through the project of collecting students' e-mail addresses before graduation by allowing the students to request an alumni alias address that they keep after graduation. Thus, the database currently contains about 3,000 e-mail addresses of former students of the School of Dental Me-

dicine who receive the Magazine in the form of a newsletter with all the news from the Faculty. Krešimir Mustapić talked about examples of good practice and pointed out the most popular events organized by AMCA Toronto, which are gala evenings, multimedia events, and donor nights where they raise funds for students who meet the criteria defined by the AMCA Toronto Regulations. They also regularly organize interesting lectures that are always well attended.

Damir Markučić said that the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture organizes rowing regattas that professors, students, and alumni of that faculty compete in, as well as the *Engineers' Ball* that they hope will become a fundraising event in the future. Regarding donations, he said that FSB has a Faculty Economic Council headed by Mr. Damir Vandelić, which he considers an excellent channel for the implementation of various forms of financial assistance since as an association they do not have an account and the Faculty provides logistical support. Regarding the need to rejuvenate the Association and the challenges of attracting and keeping in touch with the alumni, Damir Markučić mentioned LinkedIn platform enables contact and communication with the current students and the alumni and quick exchange of information.

Prof. Mario Šafran concluded the discussion by thanking the panelists for an interesting conversation and useful ideas, convinced that the collaboration of alumni associations with the Association ALUMNI UNIZG will facilitate further advancement of the existing activities and the development of new ones, in order to attract, involve, motivate, and connect the alumni, students, and the business community.

My/our alumni story panel discussion

On March 5, 2021, ALUMNI UNIZG Association organized *My/our alumni story* panel discussion bringing in interesting speakers, our prominent alumni who talked about volunteering and alumni culture during the difficult times of the pandemic, and the devastating consequences of the earthquake. The panelists included Prof. Bruno Baršić, Ph.D., Head of the Center for Disease Control of the Clinical Hospital Dubrava, Assist. Prof. Martina Kolar Billege, Ph.D., President of the Association of Graduates and Friends of the Faculty of Teacher Education in Zagreb, and Assoc. Prof. Josip Atalić, Ph.D., of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, coordinator at the Croatian Earthquake Engineering Centre. The talk held in the hall of the University of Zagreb was moderated by our alumnus Mislav Togonal, editor and presenter at HRT.

The panel discussion opened with the welcome speech of the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Damir Boras, Ph.D., who thanked the guests for the volunteer work they have put in, along



Panelists and moderator

with thousands of other volunteers from our university, to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic and the devastating effects of the earthquake. The volunteering efforts of our experts show that the University of Zagreb is still the main Croatian scientific, teaching, social, and cultural institution that moves our homeland forward.

Assist. Prof. Martina Kolar Billege spoke about the extent of damage to the building of the Faculty of Teacher Education in Petrinja caused by the earthquake that struck the area on December 29, 2020, pointing out that the building is in poor condition and unfit for use. The lectures for students from Petrinja are delivered entirely online, and for students to be able to continue their studies in the least painful way, the Faculty of Teacher Education managed to provide 50 laptops through donations, while many economic entities also offered help. Among the different volunteer projects, she highlighted the one called *Do your homework, undo the F* in which students of the Faculty of Teacher Education volunteer to help students who need learning assistance.

Assoc. Prof. Josip Atalić spoke about the prompt response of the alumni of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, structural engineers who volunteered from the first day, providing their knowledge,

time, and service with great enthusiasm and without thinking about themselves, simply wanting to help. To avoid similar scenarios, he considers it necessary to introduce anti-seismic certificates that he plans to develop in cooperation with a team of experts from Italy and attempt to incorporate them into legislation. He stressed the importance of a national strategy focused on essential buildings such as hospitals and schools.

Prof. Bruno Barišić spoke about the damage to the buildings of Zagreb hospitals caused by the earthquake noting significant damage to the University Hospital for Infectious Diseases “Dr. Fran Mihaljević”. Regarding the progress of the coronavirus pandemic and the estimation of when life could “return to normal”, he said that we will have to learn to live with the virus and strive for mass vaccination and adherence to basic measures such as protective masks and social distancing. He commended fellow doctors from other Croatian hospitals who came to help KB Dubrava which was turned into a dedicated COVID-19 center and extended special thanks to the alumni of the School of Medicine who live in America for their solidarity and assistance in purchasing the much-needed respirators.

President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., concluded the discussion by thanking the guests for the interesting conversation and reminding everyone that the “*My/our alumni story*” talks were initially launched so alumni who practice the spirit of volunteering and commitment could share their experience, demonstrating the power of unity and inspiring others for socially responsible behavior.

The entire panel discussion is available on the website: <http://www.unizg.hr/nc/vijest/article/alumni-prica-volontiranje-u-kriznim-situacijama/>

Paula Pavletić and Petra Lojen

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the AMCA-Paris Association - June 9, 2021.

AMCA-Paris, founded on May 2, 1991, held a video conference and some of its members gathered in the great hall of the monastery of St. Francis in Paris to celebrate the 30th anniversary of this association.

Most of the former presidents of the Association managed to attend the meeting despite the pandemic restrictions that were still in force.

The quality work of AMCA-Paris over these thirty years has been maintained by the voluntary work of the Board members and the contribution of many other members and friends of the association.

When our homeland was attacked and during the Homeland War, most of the activities were focused on politics, but efforts were also continued to introduce the public to eminent French and Croatian scientists, academy members, artists, and authors. After the war years, the Association continued its activity, organizing a dozen different cultural events each year.

Numerous concerts and operas performed by Croatian artists were organized, Croatian films were screened, and meetings were held with numerous French intellectuals. More than 300 events were organized during these years to promote Croatian culture.

The meeting was too short to list all the activities undertaken during the 30 years. The participants were reminded of the most significant events in a video compilation of the highlights of each year. Near the end of the video conference, a young Croatian pianist, Tonja Čuić from Heidelberg played a piece by Dora Pejačević receiving a big round of applause.

President Lamia Ruzdic-Barbier thanked all the members and friends of the Association who took part in its work and wished for their activities to continue for many years.

The meeting concluded in the beautiful garden of the monastery full of roses and singing birds. With a toast to the Association, the present members enjoyed a large Dalmatian cake prepared by Maja Cioni.

We look forward to the forthcoming publication of an illustrated bilingual chronology of AMCA-Paris's 30-year-long history. At this point, the entire text of the chronology has been written in Croatian and the French translation and a selection of illustrations are being prepared.

We bring excerpts from the chronology of the Association about the most significant events to depict its work:

Chronology of work and activities of the AMCA-Paris association

Prof. Žarko Dolinar initiated the founding of the AMCA-Paris association. The Initiative Committee, consisting of Alvin Burek, Ante Glibota, Radovan Padjen, Janka Štahan-Quiot and Neven Šimac, extended an invitation to the founding assembly of the Paris branch of the association: AMA, *Almae Matris Alumni*.

The founding assembly was held on April 12, 1991, and the Association was registered as the Association of the Alumni of the University of Zagreb, *Almae Matris Zagrebiensis Alumni*, AMZA on May 2, 1991 (Official Gazette of June 5, 1991). Since we wanted to include former students of other Croatian universities in the association, the name of the association was subsequently changed to *Almae Matris Croatiae Alumni*, AMCA-Paris.

The statute of the Association was written according to the French laws on associations. The signatories of the Statute were: Prof. Mirko Dražen Grmek, Radovan Padjen, Alvin Burek, Damir Perinić and Luigia Arambašin.

The purpose of the Association is stated in the Statute: to establish and develop links between former students, contribute to the scientific and educational development of the University of Zagreb, help develop the Croatian economy in general, facilitate the progress towards democratic institutions, and invest educational efforts in human rights and fundamental freedoms that character-

ize the European parliamentary system, to contribute to the integration of Croatian cultural and demographic area into the European collective, to develop ties between other similar associations in Europe and America.

On June 15, 1991, the first regular General Annual Assembly was held at the Guizot Amphitheater, Sorbonne University, and the speakers were: Prof. Marijan Šunjić and Prof. Žarko Dolinar, Prof. Henrik Heger, and Prof. Mirko Dražen Grmek, President of AMZA. The Editorial Board: Janka Štahan Quiot; Committee for Social Action: Vidušin; Committee for the Economy: Mladen Štefan; Committee for Scientific and Historical Work: Henrik Heger were all established.

The first Board of Directors, from June 15, 1991, to May 25, 1992, consisted of President Mirko Dražen Grmek, university professor; Vice President Radovan Padjen, Ph.D.; Secretary Alvin Burek, Ph.D.; Treasurer Damir Perinić, engineer-architect; Deputy Treasurer Luigia Arambašin, philosophy graduate. Board members were Janka Štahan Quiot, interpreter-translator and Branimir Živković, Ph.D.

In January 1992, Damir and Maja Perinić bring the French Parliament and Senate representatives: MP Bernardo Stasi, Senator Jacques Golliet, and Secretary of the Senate's President Monique Badenes to visit Croatia. The delegation met with the President of the Republic of Croatia, Franjo Tuđman, Cardinal Franjo Kuharić, HDZ party President Vladimir Šeks, President of the Croatian Parliament Žarko Domjan, representative of the Jewish Community Goran Tomić, Minister of Foreign Affairs Zlatko Mršić, and the President of Croatian Christian Democratic Party Ivan Cesar in Zagreb. A visit to the front line in Karlovac was also organized.

On February 11, 1992, the Association organizes its first concert in the town of Courbevoie, a piano recital by Branko Sepčić entitled *Espace Carpeaux*, for the benefit of the Croatian people affected by war. The concert was organized by Gordana Curać from AMCA-Paris and Kristina Kavaja and Blagovesta Pied, members of AMCA-Paris and *Les Cigognes de Macedoine* with the help of Ante Curać. The program included works by Field, Lisinski, and Grieg. From the end of 1992 to the middle of 1994, AMCA-Paris members Damir Perinić and Maja Perinić, in cooperation with François Šoltić, organized a newsroom broadcasting in French the news about the war in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and events from other regions of the former Yugoslavia. They also included information on the life, culture, and history of Croatia. The show aired on the Radio Frequency Paris Plurielle 106.3 FM radio station. Tatjana Radovanović and Mira Barišić-Lafon were involved in delivering the program, and D. Sapin and Albert Drenski provided technical assistance. They ran a 90-minute wee-

kly program called *Les voies ouvertes*, (*Open ways, which can be interpreted differently as a homonym of Free voices*). When that show started airing, the show called Studio YU, which had been spreading the anti-Croatian propaganda of Tanjug in France in the Serbian language, was canceled. The show hosted French intellectuals and politicians P. Bruckner, A. Finkielkrauth, B. H. Levy, Ph. Herzog, V. Nahoum-Grappe, and others, and interviewed politicians and journalists from Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. All costs of the show were covered by the group of program editors.

On January 12, 1993, Damir Perinić organized a visit of the then MP and Mayor of Neuilly / Seine, Nicolas Sarkozy, the future President of France, to Croatian President Franjo Tuđman. Since Croatian airspace was blocked, the visit was organized by road transport from Budapest to Zagreb and back.

In July 1994, 7,000 books were transported to Dubrovnik as a gift from Mr. Baron to the city library, with the help of Ante Curać, Tomislav Rajić, Maja Dolibić, and Marina Tomas-Billet who organized the delivery. Ante Curać managed to arrange free transport of 1,500 kilograms of books to Dubrovnik by Croatia Airlines.

On July 9, 1995, a reception was organized for Croatian students at the Hotel Mercure Ronceray in Paris. Ante Curać initiated the program *Let's help Croatian students*. The AMCA-Paris Committee selected nine students from various faculties from among 35 candidates who got to attend a French language course. *L'Institut Catholique* approved three grants for courses, Ante Curać, and other sponsors covered the costs for the remaining students, the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved travel expenses, and AMCA-Paris arranged accommodation with the members of the Association and families of the Croatian community. The program aimed to promote the learning and knowledge of the French language in various professions and occupations in Croatia.

Between June 4-6, 1996, through the organizing effort and financial assistance of Ante and Gordana Curać and their office *Dubrovnik Plus*, in collaboration with the Association AMCA-Paris and the permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to UNESCO dr. sc. Vesna Girardi-Jurkić, the folklore group *Lindo* from Dubrovnik performed a mix of folk dances at the celebration of the Statehood Day of the Republic of Croatia in the Great Hall of UNESCO. Thanks to Gordana Curać, the same program was held at the conservatory hall in the city of Rueil-Malmaison to celebrate the twinning of the cities of Dubrovnik and Rueil-Malmaison, and then at the hall of the Catholic Croatian Mission in Paris.

At the initiative of Ante Curać, after two years of negotiations with the City Hall of Paris led by Branko Vulić, a memorial plaque was mounted



Ruder Bošković memorial plaque

with an inscription in French “Dans cette maison a vecu et travaille de 1775 a 1777 Roger Joseph Boscovich, philosophe, mathématicien et astronome, fondateur de l’atomisme moderne, natif de Dubrovnik, croate de naissance, français d’adoption” and in Croatian: “U ovoj kući je živio i radio od 1775. do 1777. Rugjer Josip Bošković”.

On October 23, 1997, many Croatian ex-pats, city officials, Croatian ambassadors, embassy officials, and members of the French Academy attended the unveiling ceremony of the memorial plaque mounted on building no. 6 rue de Seine in Paris in honor of Croatian and French scientist Roger Joseph Boscovich, philosopher, astronomer, and mathematician, correspondent of the Academy of Sciences.



The unveiling ceremony of the Ruder Bošković memorial plaque

After the speeches given by Prof. R. Taton from the French Academy, Prof. M.D. Grmek, and N. Šimac, everyone was invited to a reception at the Institut de France, Académie des Sciences. The stone plaque was donated by the city of Dubrovnik and mounted on the wall by M. Gabelica.

September 1997 saw the publication of 800 copies of the first double issue of *Cahiers Croates*, spring-summer 1997, entitled *Marulić European humanist*. The new quarterly is dedicated to cultural and scientific exchanges between Croatia and France. The president was Janka Štahan Quiot, editor in chief Maja Dolibić, and advisors were Prof. Mirko Dražen Grmek, Radovan Ivšić, Luise Lambrichs,

Annie Le Brun, and Leo Košuta. Texts were written by: Nella Arambašin, Vladimir Vratović, Branko Franolić, Mirko Tomasović, Charles Bene, Marko Marulić, Leo Košuta, Franz Leschinkohl, Branislav Lučin, Darko Novaković, Branko Jozić, Annie le Brun, Jacques Lacarriere, and Sanda Herzić.



The cover of the first double issue of Cahiers Croates

Between April 8-24, 1998 Josip Ago Skenderović, President of the Organizing Committee and Tatjana Radovanović, Branko Martinović, Klara Bleibtreu-Tomić, and Maja Perinić organized a large exhibition of works by contemporary Croatian artists entitled *Croatian Contemporary Art (Art contemporain croate)*. The exhibition featured 21 artists residing in France and 21 artists from Croatia: Dubravka Babić, Petar Barišić, Clara Bleibtreu-Tomić, Lidija Bogdanić, Peruško Bogdanović, Joško Eterović, Louis Fachat, Marina Fortunatović, Biserka Gall, Kažimir Hraste, Dalibor Jelavić, Marijan Jevšovar, Zlatko Keser, Željko Kipke, Slavko Kopač, Vesna Kovačić, Mirna Krešić, Ivan Lesiak, Dubravka Lošić, Branko Martinović, Aleksej Minakov, Zoltan Novak, Tatjana Radovanović, Luksa Peko, Igor Rončević, Nadia Dragica de la Rosa, Zlatko Rosic, Marc PM Salvelli, Djuro Seder, Kemal Sirbegovic, Josip A. Skenderovic, Mauro Stipanov, Miroslav Sutej, Antun B. Svaljek, Marijan Talan, Dalibor Tanko, Vladimir Trnski, Dino Trtovac, Ksenija Turcic, Davor Vrankic, Goranka Vrus, Vera Zahorodni. Documents that attest to a continuous and historical presence of Croatian artists in France, prepared by Tatjana Radovanović, were also presented. The exhibition was organized with the participation of the Croatian Ministry of Culture, the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia, and the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Croatia to UNESCO.

In October 1999, at the suggestion of the President of the Alliance Française in Zagreb, Ivana Batušić and sculptor Ivan Kožarić the Mayor of Paris, Damir Perinić launched an administrative action to

erect a monument to Antun Gustav Matoš in Paris, on the site of the demolished hotel where the writer lived, in rue de Seine, in the Latin Quarter of the 5th district in Paris.

On May 5, 2009, a meeting was held with Andrej Plenković, Deputy Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia, who spoke on the topic "Negotiations on the Accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union". Mrs. Caroline Ferrari, Deputy Head of the Department for Community-Union Relations, Directorate-General of the European Union participated in the meeting. The meeting was held at the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Paris.



Andrej Plenković and Caroline Ferrari

In June and July 2012, regarding the candidacy of the Republic of Croatia for accession to the European Union, in cooperation with Aleksandra Brnetić, President of AMAC - Deutschland and Nenad Bičanić, President of AMAC - United Kingdom, AMCA-Paris launched a campaign to send letters to all Prime Ministers and Speakers of the parliaments of European countries. These letters, written in the languages of the particular countries (if possible), explain the reasons for adopting a positive attitude during the vote on Croatia's membership in the European Union.

In the spring of 2013, Damir Perinić launches the initiative with a letter to the Mayor of Paris Bertrand Delanoë and the Mayor of the 13th district, Jerome Coumet, in which AMCA-Paris proposes that a small unnamed area in the 13th district be named *Croatian Square or The Square of the Republic of Croatia*. Patrick Bloche, Mayor of the 11th district of Paris and Deputy Mayor of Paris supported the idea. Unfortunately, Mayor J. Coumet rejected the proposed project.

On February 8, 2014, finally, after more than 13 years of persistence, organizing difficulties, and great efforts, the inauguration of the statue of Antun Gustav Matoš, by the sculptor Ivan Kožarić, took place. A statue of the Croatian poet A. G. Matoš was unveiled in the garden of the Corentin Celton Hospital's Rosarium in Issy les Moulineaux on the

occasion of the 100th anniversary of his death by Minister Andrea Zlatar-Violić and André Santini, Mayor of Issy les Moulineaux. Damir Perinić, President of AMCA, who had worked on the project for 13 years until its realization, had the honor of giving the introductory speech at the ceremony. A cello concerto was organized to accompany the speeches, and an exhibition on Matoš was staged in the chapel. A recital of selected Matoš's poetry in Croatian and French was held next to the statue. Many Croats and Frenchmen, friends of the association, attended the inauguration. The city of Issy les Moulineaux published a bilingual edition of AG Matoš's poetry selected and translated by Jugoslav Gospodnetić at the suggestion of Damir Perinić.



The unveiling of the A. G. Matoš statue

On September 21, 2014, Vlatko Marić organized a colloquium on Antun Gustav Matoš in the ceremonial hall of the Issy les Moulineaux City Hall, attended by Mayor André Santini and several city councilors. Speakers included: Nella Arambašin, a lecturer at Besancon University, university professor Željko Klaić, senior lecturer Danijel Barić, university professor Jasna Galjer, director of research at CNRS Catherine Horel, Franjo Šanjek from the University of Zagreb, Croatian Ambassador to France Ivo Goldstein, hosted by Vlatko Marić, Secretary of the AMCA-Paris Association. The participants discussed the life of Antun Gustav Matoš, the influence of his works, and the historical context. Sanja Janković and Bruna Justinić then held a poetry recital of Matoš's poetry for the colloquium participants, next to the sculpture set in Issy les Moulineaux's garden of a thousand roses.

On April 7, 2016, Tonko Maroević, a member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, gave a lecture entitled *From Pharos to Hvar*, from Greeks to Croats. The introductory speech was given by Damir Perinić, who organized the meeting. The meeting was held at the Croatian Embassy in Paris and the lecture was simultaneously interpreted into French by Maja Cioni.

On April 5, 2017, a documentary film *Unconquered Forest* was screened as a tribute to Radovan Ivšić. Annie le Brun and the author of the documentary, Ana Marija Habjan, a director from Zagreb atten-

ded the event. Damir and Maja Perinić organized the meeting and hosted the author.

Between July 12-23, 2018, Maja Perinić and Lamia Barbier-Ruždić staged an exhibition of 100 photographs entitled *100 years of the Photo Club Split* in the ceremonial hall of the City Hall of the 6th district in Paris. The sponsors were the City of Split and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia. At the initiative of Ivanka Jardin, the entire exhibition *100 years of the Photo Club Split* was transferred to the city of Bourges where it was open from September 22 to October 13, 2019. At the initiative of Slavica Pučo, the entire exhibition *100 years of the Photo Club Split* was transferred to the city of Pompey-Nancy where it was open December 3-4, 2019.

At the suggestion of Damir Perinić, the AMCA-Paris committee decided to organize a large exhibition of Vlado Kristl's works. Madeleine Kristl agreed to lend a selection of her father's paintings from her collection for the occasion. Jerica Ziheri, director of the Lapidarium Museum in Novigrad, was appointed exhibition's curator.

In the fall of 2019, Jerica Ziheri selected about sixty paintings and began working on the catalog. Lamia Barbier-Ruždić and Maja Perinić arranged for the exhibition to be staged at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. Funding was secured in cooperation with Damir Perinić, and with the help of Nevena Tudor Perković through the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, and the Central State Office for Croats Abroad. The received subsidies amounted to 21,640 euros, part of which was transferred to the Lapidarium Museum in Novigrad through a partnership agreement to cover a part of the costs of preparing the exhibition and the catalog in Croatia. This project was launched in France in honor of the Croatian presidency of the Council of the European Union. The project attends to all three forms of Kristl's artistic activities - painting, film, and poetry. Borka Legras, Maja Cioni, Madeleine Kristl, and Ivanka Jardin translated the texts for the catalog. Damir Perinić and a small team of Committee members organized truck transport and framing of paintings. Branka Benčić was appointed film curator. A date for the screening of the film was agreed with the Goethe Institute in Paris, and an agreement was made with the French publishing house l'Ollave to arrange for a selection of Kristl's poetry to be translated and published in a bilingual edition.

On February 7, 2020, A meeting was held with the Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković at the monument to A. G. Matoš at the proposition of Lea Lasić from the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia. On the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister of Croatia to France, Damir Perinić organized a meeting of the Prime Minister and members of

the delegation and the embassy with André Santini, Mayor of Issy-les-Moulineaux and members of the Association AMCA-Paris, at the sculpture bench of Antun Gustav Matoš in the city of Issy les Moulineaux's garden of a thousand roses.

On February 13, 2020, in honor of the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the grand opening of the exhibition entitled *Madeleine*, *Madeleine* was held as the first part of the trilogy *image-poetry-film*, which depicts the creative work of Vlado Kristl. Speeches were given by the envoy of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia Nevena Tudor-Perković, Croatian Ambassador Filip Vučak, exhibition curator Jerica Zihlerl, director of the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris Benedicte Alliot, and president of AMCA-Paris Lamia Barbier-Ruždić. About sixty works were exhibited at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris from 14 to 29 February. The exhibition featured paintings, prints, drawings, poetry editions, and books of prints along with the screening of documentaries about the artist by the Zagreb film director Ana Marija Habjan.

On February 20, 2020, the second part of the Vlado Kristl trilogy *image-poetry-film* was held at the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Paris and involved a reading of the bilingual edition of Vlado Kristl's poetry book *I stand in infinity* published by the French publishing houses *l'Ollave*. Tonko Maroević, MCA, publisher Jean de Breynne, and the foreword author Ana Marija Habjan discuss the book and poetry. The selection of poetry is read by Stanislav Habjan, translators Martina Kramer and Brankica Radić, and Jean de Breynne.

On March 2, 2020, as the third part of the trilogy *image-poetry-film*, a selection of animated and feature films was screened in the auditorium of the Goethe Institut in Paris. The President of the Association of French National Museums, Chris Dercon, and the curator Branka Benčić expounded Kristl's influence on contemporary cinematography.

Anyone who might feel omitted should be advised the mistake was not intentional, but a result of missing data.

Damir Perinić

AMACIZ, the first alumni association of the University of Zagreb celebrates 30 years of activity

The first alumni association founded at our university was the *Almae Matris Alumni Chemicæ Ingeniariæ Zagrabiensis* (AMACIZ), the Association of Graduate Engineers and Friends of the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology. The impetus for its establishment came from Prof. Branko Kunst, who brought the idea of the alumni movement from Canada, where he had spent his early years as a visiting professor. Further encouragement came from Prof. Žarko Dolinar, and Prof. Vladimir Prelog, who founded the first alumni association abroad, in Switzerland, in 1989 (AMA-CH).

Following this idea, a Meeting of Generations was held in February 1990 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering at the University of Zagreb. The founding assembly of AMACIZ, attended by over 400 participants, was held at the end of that meeting. The first board of directors included Branko Kunst, Kruno Kovačević, Ljerka Duić, Štefica Cerjan-Stefanović, Marin Hrašte, Nada Markovčić, Radivoje Vuković, and Ivan Butula. The society immediately began its operation, with 500 members in the first year, growing to over a thousand in the first ten years. The members started different sections based on their interests: Academic Choir, Mountaineering and Excursion Section, Scientific and Professional Colloquia, Art Section, Sports Section, and AMACIZ Magazine, with the first issue published in April 1992.



Prof. Žarko Dolinar (in the middle) with table tennis players and President of AMACIZ, Prof. Branko Kunst (first on the left)

The presidents of AMACIZ were: Prof. emer. Branko Kunst (1990 - 1999), Prof. Štefica Cerjan Stefanović (1999 - 2005), Prof. Jasenka Jelenčić (2006 - 2010), and since 2010 AMACIZ has been presided by Prof. Antun Glasnović.

In the years that followed, the basic concept of the association's work did not change, except that the activity was extended with the Innovators section. Each of the sections has since operated to the satisfaction of its members and FKIT as the host of all activities.

Among the most important achievements is *Glasnik*, published twice a year since 1992, with 62 issues published so far. Furthermore, a booklet was published on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of AMACIZ (2000), and booklets on the choir's activities were published every 5 years. The last of



The cover of the 60th issue of Glasnik

them, dedicated to 30 years of the choir's activity, has just come out, and we bring a review in this issue of Glasnik. Also, every 5 years, Glasnik included more detailed contributions and summaries of the individual sections' work.

From the very beginning, AMACIZ members were also active at the University level. In 2002, the Rec-

tor, Jasna Mencer, also a member of AMACIZ, founded The Committee for Alumni Activities at the University, whose members were, among others, Prof. Branko Kunst, Kruno Kovačević, Ph.D. The first president of the UNIZG Alumni Association founded in 2005, was Prof. Greta Pifat-Mrzljak from IRB (also a member of AMACIZ), and the members included Prof. Štefica Cerjan Stefanović, and Kruno Kovačević, Ph.D. The next president of the UNIZG Alumni Association was the former rector, Prof. emer. Jasna Mencer, and the current Board of Directors includes a member of AMACIZ, Prof. Mirela Leskovic.

We can proudly say that the medal "Žarko Dolinar" for the contribution to alumni work at the University, was awarded to Prof. emer. Branko Kunst, and posthumously Prof. Greta Pifat - Mrzljak. Later, the medal was awarded to Kruno Kovačević, Ph.D. and Prof. emer. Jasna Mencer.

Unfortunately, the activities of the Association in the last year have been greatly restricted by the COVID pandemic, so the 30th anniversary has not been marked. With this short text, we tried to mark this important anniversary in this jubilee issue of the UNIZG Alumni Magazine. A comprehensive list of activities can be found at <http://www.amaciz.hr/glasnik/> where digital issues of the AMACIZ Magazine from 1 to 62 are available.

30 years of activity of the Academic Choir "Vladimir Prelog"

In 2021, the Vladimir Prelog Academic Choir celebrates 30 years of activity. The choir was founded in February 1991 as the first section of the Association of Graduate Engineers and Friends of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb (*Almae Matris Alumni Chemicae Ingeniariae Zagrabensis, AMACIZ*), under the name of *Chemicae ingeniariae alumni*. The choir brings together former students of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology (FKIT) of different generations, but also singers from other faculties of the University of Zagreb. Since 2004 it has operated as the Vladimir Prelog Academic Choir.

At the beginning of its activities (1991-1995), the choir was conducted by Prof. Vinko Glasnović, then Prof. Zdravko Vitković (1995 - 2001), and since 2001 it has been conducted by musicologist, conductor, and singer Iva Juras. The choir performs its wide repertoire, ranging from classical compositions and sacral works, through arrangements of folk songs to contemporary choral works, mostly a *cappella*.

The choir was ready to hold a gala concert on the occasion of its anniversary but unfortunately, they have had to postpone it due to the COVID-19



The cover of the booklet dedicated to 30 years of the Choir's activity

pandemic. However, a booklet was published in time for the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the choir, edited by Kruno Kovačević and published by AMACIZ (*Almae Matris Alumni Chemicae Ingeniariae Alumni*). Below is an overview of this little

(about 70 pages) booklet.

The contents of the booklet include:

- Editor's note (K. Kovačević)
- A brief history of the choir
- Texts by the conductor and choir members:
 - Iva Juras, conductor: Twenty years with the people of Prelog - My love and hope
 - Kruno Kovačević: 30 years of involvement in the Choir
 - Jasna Vorkapić-Furač: Time machine - unforgettable moments stopped in time
 - Mario Pongračić: My 30 years of enjoying choral singing
 - Stojan Trajkov: Stojan sings Belafonte
 - Sonja Katanec-Franković: Memories Sung and Anniversary Celebrated in Silence.
 - Zdenka Lesjak: Amor vincit omnia (Love conquers all)
 - Mirjana Jakopčević: 18 of 30
 - Sanda Rončević: On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Academic Choir "Vladimir Prelog"
 - Božidarka Vidović Pupić: The joy of singing with AC "Vladimir Prelog"
 - Jadranka Roša: Academic Choir "Vladimir Prelog"
 - Teja Bogadi: To the choir, for its anniversary
 - Zvonko Šošić: How a medic found himself among chemists in AC "Vladimir Prelog"
 - Branko Kobas: 30 years of AC "Vladimir Prelog"
- Activities of the choir in the period 2016 - 2021 based on the texts published in the AMACIZ Magazine and on the website www.amaciz.hr
- A list of current and former members of the Choir
- Acknowledgement and appreciation to the conductor, choir members, and supporters
- All performances of the Academic Choir "Vladimir Prelog" (formerly the Academic Choir "Chemicae ingeniarum alumni") - Zagreb in the period 1991-2021.
- Choir repertoire in the period 1991-2021.

The publication is enriched by numerous photographs from choir concerts in churches and concert halls, taken in the last five years. We hope this work will save from oblivion the numerous performances of this choir, all the protagonists, and the repertoire of this valuable ensemble.



The stage of the Croatian Music Institute

Former students of the Department of Chemical Technology, now FKIT, gather after 60 years

On Saturday, November 13, the big hall of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology (FKIT) welcomed about 30 of its former students, who were freshmen back in 1961. They were received by the current dean of FKIT, Prof. Ante Jukić and the Vice-dean for education, Prof. Sanja Lučić Blagojević. Dean Jukić presented the Faculty and its teaching and research activities and the largest ongoing projects. The progress of this faculty has been impressive, especially in the fields of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry and Materials Engineering, Ecoengineering, and Applied Chemistry. They also provide postgraduate doctoral studies and specialist studies. FKIT is the only faculty in Croatia that can boast a Nobel Prize winner among its professors, as Vladimir Prelog received the award in 1975 for research in the field of organic chemistry. Furthermore, FKIT is proud that the inventors of the greatest creation and success of Croatian pharmaceuticals (PLIVA, azithromycin / Sumamed) have all graduated from this faculty.



Dean Ante Jukić greets the jubilees and presents the work of FKIT

The gathered alumni were also greeted by Prof. Mirela Leskovac, a member of the UNIZG Alumni Association's Board of Directors and the secretary of AMACIZ. She also read the message of Prof. Antun Glasnović, President of AMACIZ, who could not attend the event in person. Former students were also greeted by the President of the UNIZG Alumni Association, Prof. Mario Šafran. He emphasized that the University is empowered by former students whose work contributes to the development of the economy, but also the University. The continued contact with their former university is of particular importance, as evidenced by this anniversary.

He also pointed out the pioneering role that FKIT had in the alumni movement. The initiator of the first alumni association in Croatia (AMACIZ) was Prof. Branko Kunst from FKIT. Later, Rector Jasna Mencer established the Alumni Commission at the University of Zagreb, which in 2005 led to the formation of the UNIZG Alumni Association. The

first president of the Association was Prof. Greta Pifat Mrzljak, also a member of AMACIZ. She was succeeded by the former rector, a member of AMACIZ, Prof. emer. Jasna Mencer.

This very informative introduction was followed by honoring the deceased colleagues and their professors. The representative of the generation of '61, Petar Krešimir Cavar, read the names of all those present and conveyed the greetings of colleagues from around Croatia and the world, who could not attend the ceremony.

Krunoslav Kovačević, Ph.D., who organized the event, gave a short presentation about this generation. It was a very successful generation, which gave the first rector of the University of Zagreb (Prof. Emeritus Jasna Helena Postružin Mencer), and a Minister of Development and Technology in the Government of the SFRY (Prof. Ibrahim Tabaković) who was also the rector of the University of Banja Luka. Furthermore, a member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Prof. Nikola Kallay also belongs to this generation, as well as many university professors and teachers: Prof. Ljerka Gospočić Bokić, TTF University of Zagreb; Prof. Božidar Grabarić, PBF, University of Zagreb; Prof. Jasna Katalinić-Peter, University of Münster and University of Rijeka; Prof. Zorana Maksić (Grabarić), PBF, University of Zagreb; Prof. Tomislav Matusinović, FKIT, University of Zagreb and University of Chicago, Northwestern University, member of the NY Academy of Science; Prof. emer. Ana Marija Perinović (Grancarić), TTF, University of ZG; Assist. Prof. Željka Filipović (Kovačević), PBF, University of Zagreb; Assist. Prof. Antonia Vlahov, FKIT, University of Zagreb; Assist. Prof. Zinaida Ibrišagić, University of Banja Luka; Marijan Andrašec, Ph.D., lecturer at FKIT, University of Zagreb.



Kruno Kovačević gives a presentation on the generation of 1961

In addition to these university teachers, more than ten graduates from this generation received their doctorates, mainly from the University of Zagreb, but also from foreign universities. They are, in alphabetical order: Marijan Andrašec, Ph.D. Istvan Ereš, Ph.D. Dako Goleš, Ph.D. Darinka Kocijančić (Kovačević), Ph.D. Tomislav Kovač, Ph.D. Krunoslav Kovačević, Ph.D. Gertruda Maričić (Barić), Ph.D. Irena Musani (Bilić), Ph.D. Stjepan Mutak, Ph.D. Rudolf Novina, Ph.D. Marija Nada Pavetić,

Ph.D. Helena Pavić, Ph.D. Marta Pfeifer-Neugebauer, Ph.D.

They have conducted scientific and research work at PLIVA, Chromos, RBI, INA-Naftaplin, and other scientific and business institutions.

Apart from them, many other masters of science and graduate engineers from the same generation gave their professional contribution to the economy, industrial companies, public administration, secondary education, trade, and other activities: PLIVA, INA, Chromos-Katran-Kutrilin, Karbon, RIS, Labud, Kraš, Končar, Radonja, Jedinstvo, Nikola Tesla, Tvornica ulja Zagreb, TOP - Tvornica olovnih proizvoda, Textile industry, Glass, ceramics, and construction products, Photo laboratories, and other business activities. There is indeed a wide range of jobs that graduate engineers from this faculty have performed in a variety of industrial and administrative systems. Unfortunately, some of these companies no longer exist in their former form, and some have been liquidated. At one time, from the 1970s to the 1990s, the development and functioning of all these industrial enterprises, as well as scientific and educational institutions, could not have been imagined without the professionals in these fields. This is an indicator of the breadth of education provided at this faculty that allows for great flexibility, but also the possibility to acquire specialist knowledge required in certain branches of the economy.

It is clear beyond any doubt, that the graduates of this faculty have become respected members of the scientific and professional public, the economy, and other fields. This shows they have gained widely applicable knowledge at this faculty, but also flexibility and the ability to adapt to the needs of new fields and new times.

After the official meeting, the participants spent time socializing and conversing with the hosts (Dean, Prof. Ante Jukić and Vice Dean for Education, Prof. Sanja Lučić Blagojević) and guests from the ALUMNI UNIZG Association. This was followed by a photoshoot (Marko Sejdić, president of the FKIT Student Council) to commemorate this wonderful alumni gathering.



Group photo at the Faculty staircase

Kruno Kovačević

The Electoral Assembly of AMCA TTF

The Virtual 18th Electoral Assembly of the AMCA TTF was held on October 7 and 8, 2021. The assembly opened with the words of the student anthem *Gaudeamus igitur*.



The assembly was then introduced to the summary of the AMCA TTF association's activities which were realized in the past year marked by Covid-19 restrictive measures. We first highlight the newly elected members who will continue the activities of the Association in the four years ahead: President of the AMCA TTF Association, Prof. emer. Ana Marija Grancarić, Vice President Marijan Špiljko, B.Sc. ing. and Secretary, Assist. Prof. Lea Botteri. Other activities being restricted in 2021, AMCA TTF was able to focus on its networking efforts, connecting the members of the Association with the representatives of textile companies and institutions, and other associations, especially with the Society of Friends of the Glagolitic Writing. The members of this Society continually provide us with valuable insights into Croatian heritage related to textiles. This information is also published in the annual AMCA TTF Magazine. This year's article entitled *Folk Saga about the Arrival of Croats - Following the Way of the Sun - Red Warriors from Khorzmuwas* was written by Rado Žic Mikulin, Ph.D., and Leonarda Eleršek.

The Association continues to support HUBO and the celebration of the International Color Day 2021 (MDB 2021) traditionally celebrated on the first day of spring. The event was held at the Technical Museum of Nikola Tesla, from 19 to 21 March 2021. The theme of this year's MDB was *Light and the virtual environment*. Artist Hannibal Salvaro participated in the MDB for the third year in a row, with the International Exhibition of Digital Prints on Tarpaulin, entitled *Zagreb Full Color 21* staged on the wire fence of the Nikola Tesla Technical Museum. In addition to this, we highlight the light installation *Dugin hir* by Gordan and Zorislav Šojat, which was set up with the support of MDB. The

artists from the Ruđer Bošković Institute filled the Museum's large exhibition hall with light effects of spills and play of colors. Other exhibitors presented their fascinating works in a video exhibition. The AMCA TTF also supports the TSRC Open Day - 2021. This year's open day with the theme *New materials push the boundaries* was held in hybrid form, on September 24, 2021, at the Nikola Tesla Technical Museum. In 2020 and 2021, the AMCA TTF Board of Directors held four sessions prior to the Assembly and the publication of the AMCA TTF Glasnik.

2020 saw the publishing of the AMCA TTF Glasnik, the second important activity of the Association. Since the founding of the Association in 2004, 17 issues of Glasnik have been published and distributed to numerous addresses of members and friends in the country and abroad. In addition to Glasnik, the Association sends Christmas and New Year and Easter greeting cards to AMCA TTF members and friends.

This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, only one panel discussion was held on August 25, 2021, in hybrid form, with the participation of Professor Lubos Hes from the Technical University of Liberec in the Czech Republic.

Every year, AMCA TTF adds newly promoted TTF students to its members and thus gradually rejuvenates the membership. In accordance with the Statute and the mission of the Association, AMCA TTF has achieved most of the planned activities in the previous period. The operations of the Association resulted in a positive balance. Since its founding, the Association has been holding a competition for the best student works with the donation of Ferid Jakupović for support and assistance to students. In the category of the best artwork related to fashion illustration in ac. yr. 2020/2021, design student Ines Barić was awarded for her work under the mentorship of Assoc. prof. art. Paulina Jazvić.

AMCA TTF has a tradition of keeping track of the work and development of successful textile companies in Croatia and presents one of these companies at each Assembly to inspire the alumni in the years of production crisis in Croatia. At this year's virtual Assembly, AMCA TTF alumnus, Josip Marković, mag. ing. techn. text., presented DM Tekstil, a tailoring business run by the Marković family from Ozalj, which provides customers with innovative and quality solutions and is quick to respond to all the requests of the market.

Everyone at the AMCA TTF Association hopes that the next Assembly will be held in person with the traditional gathering of members and friends of the Association.

Ana Marija Grancarić and Lea Botteri

Report on the work of the Croatian Association of Graduates of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, AMCA ERF in 2021

In 2021, the activities of the Croatian Association of Graduates of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (AMCA-ERF) were marked by following events: the AMCA-ERF annual Assembly, student initiatives in the earthquake-affected parts of Sisak-Moslavina county, technical support for the Congress of our students ERFUSS-2021, participation in the ALUMNI UNIZG Electoral Assembly, and finally, the announcement of the Rector's Award winners.

AMCA-ERF Assembly

The 2020 annual assembly of AMCA-ERF was a hybrid event held in lecture room 10 of the Faculty. 10 participants attended the Assembly in person, while 20 joined in remotely through Teams. After the procedural appointments important for the holding of the regular Assembly (verification commission, recorder, and minutes verifier), the work of the Association in 2020 and the financial report were presented. Highlights in the work of AMCA in 2020 include the following activities that were undertaken in line with the epidemiological restrictions. In 2020, the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board of AMCA held three online sessions. Members of the Board of Directors, Klara Matejčić and Silvana Bilonić Milošević, M.Sc., participated in the Alumni Association Assembly in person (July 15-17, 2020). We only took part in the Career Day of the University of Zagreb (October 16, 2020) remotely, but we were present on social networks with a dozen posts, and of course, we submitted an article about the work of AMCA for the 29th issue of the Glasnik, the first bilingual digital and printed edition (Croatian, English). The 10th anniversary of AMCA-ERF and the 3rd meeting of alumni generations (generations 1980-1985), the two main events, were postponed due to epidemiological conditions. We extend our appreciation to Mr. Mario Šafran, our President for doing us the honor of attending the Annual General Meeting.

The Assembly concluded with the invited lecture entitled *Freedom and responsibility* by our alumna Dina Dežmar. She described her professional development experience, the beauty and the challenges of being an educational rehabilitator, a profession that covers a wide field of activity and requires a wide range of competencies - interdisciplinary knowledge, skills, and understanding, not only of the scientific knowledge and principles of educational rehabilitation but also of interpersonal relations, ethical values, and attitudes that every educational rehabilitator develops and carries within. At the beginning of her professional career, alumna Dina Dežmar worked in the



Dina Dežmar at her workplace at the Special Hospital "Martin Horvat"

education of children with major disabilities. Seventeen years later, she answered the call of the early intervention team of the Special Hospital for Orthopedics and Rehabilitation "Martin Horvat" in Rovinj where she still works as a member of the team of experts for early intervention in educational rehabilitation. Working in different systems, she has learned that each system is made of people whose professional and responsible actions "can contribute to the necessary positive changes in the target population and the environment and that the beauty of freedom and the scope of activities of educational rehabilitators bears great responsibility, not only in personal activities but also the profession as a whole."

ERF students for Petrinja and Sisak

Shortly after the devastating earthquake in Sisak-Moslavina County, the ERF academic community was ready to show how a system of rapid interventions aimed at the most vulnerable, namely children, especially children with disabilities, can be organized. The earthquake in the Sisak-Moslavina County damaged schools, kindergartens, the premises of the Association of Persons with Disabilities, the Small House, and the Room of Miracles. The teachers and students at ERF collected the donations of hygiene products, school supplies, and learning materials and organized the program *GAME - Get out, hug, grow, get active!* The initiative was launched by the students of the undergraduate study of Rehabilitation, the graduate study of Educational Rehabilitation, and the graduate study of Speech Therapy. A group of students from the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (Nina Bolonja, Ana Knežević, Jana Korlević, Lucija Veršić, Nina Lovrić, Karolina Đenadija, Ivana Bilić, Matea Luburić, Laura Marinović, Matea Zovko, Mihaela Đurenec, Martina Galić) employed their knowledge and experience to help children and families in earthquake-stricken cities. Throu-

ghout the process, the coordinators of the initiative cooperated with the management and teachers of ERF. Among our teachers, those most involved from the very beginning were Assist. Prof. Damir Miholić and Assist. Prof. Sonja Alimović from the study program of Rehabilitation and Educational Rehabilitation. The first phase involved collecting toys, board games, picture books, and other children's necessities. The coordinators, accompanied by teachers, delivered the donations to the Glina Elementary School and the Bubamara Kindergarten in Glina. The second, more extensive phase, was prompted by the realization that play is essential for children and should not be neglected even in emergencies caused by pandemics and earthquakes. Therefore, a series of inclusive workshops adapted for children with and without disabilities was prepared. Workshops were also organized for parents to empower them. Plans have been made to continue involving the students of Social Pedagogy in further activities. Bringing together students, teachers, and assistants of all study programs around the IGRA initiative promotes interdisciplinarity and continuous cooperation among ERF studies. For the entire duration of the activities, the spirit of volunteering ("Voluntary investment of personal time, effort, knowledge, and skills for the benefit of another person or the common good without claiming material gain") was not lacking, especially in students. The IGRA initiative was presented by students, the initiative holders, at the international scientific-professional conference *Educational, health, and social infrastructure for children with difficulties and persons with disabilities* which was held between April 6-8, 2021, in Primošten.



Coordinators with collected toys for Glina

ERFUSS2021 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

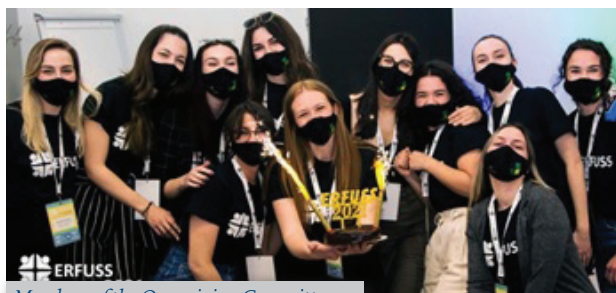
The Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences of the University of Zagreb hosted the 4th International Student Congress, "ERF in cooperation with..." in line with the nationwide pandemic restrictions. It was necessary to enable the lecturers and some of the participants to gather in person, while the majority of participants and some

of the lecturers joined in remotely. The meeting was held between April 23-25, 2021, under the auspices of the City of Zagreb, co-financed from the LOSPER project of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences and the Student Center.

About the LOSPER project: The project of improving the quality of speech therapy, social pedagogy, and educational rehabilitation studies has been implemented for the third year within the Call for the Implementation of the Croatian Qualifications Framework at the Higher Education Level, Operational Program Human Resources Development 2014-2020. It is subsidized by the European Union from the European Social Fund (ESF), with three main goals: Developing the standards for three professions - speech therapist, social pedagogue, educational rehabilitator; three qualifications - master in speech therapy, master in social pedagogy, master in rehabilitation; and the development of three integrated study programs.

This year's ERFUSS2021, just like the previous ones, was held in collaboration with AMCA. The title of Student Congress reveals its purpose, ERF in cooperation or abbreviated ERFUSS, reveals the desire of our students to establish cooperation on an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary level. This year, as the previous years, our students set the main goals of the international congress: 1. exchanging knowledge between various related and less related professions, 2. encouraging teamwork, and 3. empowering young alumni and students for future work with people with communication, language, and speech disorders, with children with difficulties and people with disabilities, and with people with behavioral disorders. The ERFUSS program included 20 presentations, reviews, and research papers by students of ERF and other studies in Croatia and abroad, such as studies communications, nutrition, dental medicine, physics, and others. Three student workshops and six plenary lectures in speech therapy, educational rehabilitation, and social pedagogy were held. Between the presentations, participants had the opportunity to listen to two inspiring stories by extraordinary individuals. Students also had the opportunity to hear a lecture *Adjusting the study programs of speech therapy, social pedagogy, and educational rehabilitation to the standards of occupations and qualifications* given by members of the LOSPER project workgroup, Prof. Sandra Bradarić Jončić, Prof. Mirjana Lenček, Assist. Prof. Gabrijela Ratgajec Gašević, and Prof. Zrinjka Stancić.

Although most of the participants joined ERFUSS2021 from their homes, the demanding technical execution was coordinated at the premises of ERF by student members of the Organizing Committee Ema Malešević, Laura Marinović, Lucija Ratković, Matea Visković, Roberta Kršulja, Nina Bolonja, Andrea Perić, Roberta Bajčić, Tamara Vlahović, Ana Posavčević, and Elizabeta Nemec, with the help of IT support from Studio Arena.



Members of the Organizing Committee

Following the Conference, ERF published a book of abstracts available on the digital academic repository Dabar.

AMAC FSC co-organized the nineteenth international scientific-professional conference *The Science and Development of Traffic-ZIRP*

Organized by the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences, this year's conference *ZIRP - The Science and Development of Transport* was held on September 30 and October 1 in Šibenik under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Science and Education, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, and the University of Zagreb. This year's conference brought together renowned experts from around Europe and the world to present innovative research-based solutions and the possibilities of their application in practice. As always, a large number of alumni of the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences attended the Conference, and the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences - AMAC FSC traditionally co-organized the Conference.

The conference focused on the problem of traffic organization in "smart cities", along with other topics in transport, logistics, and aeronautics. Urban mobility, traffic safety, large database management, inventory forecasting, automatic ordering, development of intelligent transport systems, legislation, and many other interesting topics were discussed.

On September 30, a panel discussion entitled *Smart Mobility for Future Cities* was held, with transport planning and logistics experts discussing the challenges of the transport and logistics sector in urban areas. The panelists included:

Kensuke Tsuchiya, President of Toyota Adria; Isabelle Vandoorne, M.Sc., European Commission, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport; Ivana Podnar Žarko, Ph.D., University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing; Vedran Pavelić, M.E., Eccos Engineering Ltd.; Pavel Hrubeš, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, Technical University of Prague; Ana Preost, M.Sc., Zagrebparking doo, and Marko Slavulj, Ph.D., Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, University of Zagreb.

Rector's Award in 2021

Three students of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences have won the Rector's Award for social sciences. These are Dunja Mrinjek for the paper *The influence of the mass media on the formation of Croatian students' opinion about children with difficulties and persons with disabilities* under the mentorship of Assoc. Prof. Renata Pinjetela, and the author duo Nikolina Kušterbajn and Valerija Kulić for the paper *Difficulties in the orientation and movement of blind people when wearing a protective mask during the COVID-19 pandemic* under the mentorship of Assoc. Prof. Sonja Alimović.

Zrinjka Stančić



Conference participants

During the ZIRP conference, eminent international scientists and transport, logistics, and aeronautics experts gave their invited lectures on sustainable and smart cities and the application of modern transport technologies and digital tools in providing better urban mobility and aircraft maintenance. The speakers included: Tamara Djukić (Barcelona), Ph.D., Jörn Schönberger (Dresden), Ph.D., Alena Novák Sedláčková (Žilina), Ph.D., Benjamin Nitsche (Berlin), Ph.D., Ivana Dusparić (Dublin), Ph.D., Paulina Golinska-Dawson (Poznan), Ph.D.

The conference included two workshops:

- LoMI - crossing borders through internationalization - introducing the new study program delivered in the English language, *Logistics and mobility management*
- AGKN - Asian-German Network for Transport and Logistics e.V.

The conference was a hybrid event with a total of 48 papers from 11 countries, 14 of which were published in the Springer Proceedings and 22 in the ZIRP Proceedings, while the reviewers proposed two papers for publication in the magazine *Traffic*. In total, about 300 participants attended the Conference, seventy of them attended in person and

others remotely.

In conclusion, the nineteenth ZIRP was an opportunity to socialize, exchange scientific and professional insights, and lay foundations for the organization of the twentieth jubilee, ZIRP 2022.

The alumni of our Faculty once again supported the activities of the Faculty continuing the good tradition and strengthening their ties with their Faculty.

AMAC FSC Executive Board

Association of Graduates and Friends of the Faculty of Teacher Education in Zagreb (AMAC-UFZG)

Due to pandemic circumstances, the work of the Association was difficult, but the Board of Directors began to organize thematic online encounters. These meetings are conceived as gatherings of Faculty of Teacher Education alumni with a short encouraging presentation by a distinguished lecturer followed by a discussion or conversation in which all participants can take part. The goal of such meetings is to strengthen, encourage and get together despite the adverse circumstances.

The first such meeting was held on March 29, 2021, with an inspiring lecture by the distinguished professor of Philosophy of Education and a great thinker, Assist. Prof. Draženko Tomić. *Reed and/or oak?* was the title of this stimulating presentation which focused on values, fears and hopes, and everything that educators are faced with in current circumstances.

The second such meeting was held on April 26, 2021, with a thought-provoking introductory speech by Tanja Baran, editor-in-chief of Radio Sljeme. The challenging topic discussed after the short presentation was *Are we completely naked?*. The presentation and the discussion focused on the presence of teachers and educators in the media and the consequences of that presence (*School for life*, distance learning, etc.). The participants discussed the media space allocated to teachers and educators. In addition to the conclusions, new questions emerged from the discussion, which will be discussed in the future: Is the media the right way for teachers and educators to get exposure? Are social networks a better tool for teachers and educators to gain visibility?



Mario Šafran and Siniša Opić organizing the Assembly at the Faculty of Teacher Education

President, Assist. Prof. Martina Kolar Billege participated regularly in the sessions of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association's 's Board of Directors. At the Electoral Session of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, held on July 1, 2021, at the Faculty of Teacher Education in Zagreb, she was re-elected as a member of the Board of Directors, and at the first session of the Board of Directors, held on September 17, 2021, she was elected Vice President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association. This is an opportunity to raise the visibility and reputation of the Faculty of Teacher Education in the wider community, as the Association brings together alumni of all components of the University of Zagreb who work within the country and abroad.

World Teachers' Day and the Day of the Faculty of Teacher Education

On Tuesday, October 5, 2021, we celebrated the Day of the Faculty of Teacher Education and the World Teachers' Day and introduced the new Management of the Faculty of Teacher Education for the term of office 2021/2022-2023/2024. We had the pleasure to welcome at the ceremony Mr. Zoran Milanović, President of the Republic of Croatia and many other high officials of the Government, Croatian Parliament, Rector of our university, rectors of other universities, deans and vice-deans of other constituents of the University of Zagreb, and directors of agencies and institutions with which the Faculty of Teacher Education successfully cooperates.



New Management of the Faculty of Teacher Education

The guests at the solemn session were addressed by Prof. Siniša Opić, Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Education. In his address, he defined the position and emphasized the important role of educators and teachers as bearers of education in society. Their value and influence cannot be matched by their value in the labor market. The Dean awarded recognitions and awards to deserving institutions and individuals for exceptional merits and contribution to the development and reputation of the Faculty of Teacher Education.

Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Damir Boras emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary association of all components of the University. His presence was an act of honoring the Faculty of Teacher Education, where he was employed for several years.



President Zoran Milanović visits the Faculty of Teacher Education with Dean Opić

State Secretary at the Ministry of Science and Education, Ivica Sušak, attended the solemn session as an envoy of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia Andrej Plenković and the sectoral minister Radovan Fuchs. In his address, he said that the Ministry of Science and Education and the Government of the Republic of Croatia would pro-

vide formal and professional support for the development of the Faculty of Teacher Education.

President of the Education, Science and Culture Committee of the Croatian Parliament, Prof. Vesna Bedeković stressed the importance of solving current problems in education and implementing modern scientific insights and achievements. She expressed her intent to continue to provide comprehensive professional support to the Faculty of Teacher Education.

The Faculty of Teacher Education had the exceptional honor of welcoming Mr. Zoran Milanović, President of the Republic of Croatia, as the guest at the ceremonial academy. On his first visit to our institution, he shared his experience of being raised and educated by a mother who was a teacher. In his address, he emphasized the importance of professional competence, but also the competitiveness of the institution within the Republic of Croatia and in the wider European context.



The performance at the ceremonial academy

The participants enjoyed the performances by professors of the music section of the Art Department and students of the Davorin Trstenjak Elementary School.

Martina Kolar Billege

AMCA Toronto activities in 2021

Despite the lockdown and problems caused by the pandemic, the AMCA Toronto Board of Directors continued to organize activities in a new form to engage its membership and the wider community. The former in-person gatherings have been replaced by interesting events and socializing over Zoom beginning at the end of 2020 with the lectures by Vuk Vuković, Ivan Đikić, and Davor Pavuna and an online Christmas party.

In January of this year, Branka Bezić Filipović opened the 2021 series of Zoom lectures. Well-known among the emigrant community, until recently the head of the Split branch of the Croatian Heritage Foundation and the author of numerous books, Ms. Bezić presented her latest book *Jose Miličić*



- the last chief of the Yagan tribe. The lecture was enriched by the lively anecdotal humor in the style of Branka Filipović.

The annual assembly was also held over Zoom, in

February, and the former members of the Board of Directors were re-elected, Ana Bačić as Vice President, Vesna Gmazel as Secretary, and Miro Trstenjak, Member of the Board for Social Activities.

The lecture about the *50 years of the Journal of the Croatian Academy of America*, was held in February this year after being postponed in May last year. Speakers included: John P. Kraljić, President of the Croatian Academy of America, Vinko Grubišić, renowned Slavist and Croatist, and award-winning guest editor of the Academy's journal (*Journal of Croatian Studies*), and Prof. Vladimir Bubrin. The Croatian Academy of America was founded in North America in 1953 with its headquarters in New York to study our literature, culture, and history. Today, the Academy publishes one of the most prestigious Croatian journals in the diaspora - *Journal of Croatian Studies*, which abounds in scientific and professional works from history, literature, fine and musical arts, sociology, law, philosophy, theology, economics, and natural sciences. In June, AMCA Toronto organized a Zoom lecture about the *Challenges in Designing and Constructing the Pelješac Bridge* given by the main designer of this monumental project, Marijan Pipenbaher, M.E., and the chief engineer of the Pelješac Bridge project on behalf of Hrvatske ceste, Jeroslav Šegedin, M.E. This lecture was well-attended and led to an interesting conversation during the open discussion.

This summer, two of our prominent members received special honors. At the ALUMNI UNIZG Association assembly, held in Zagreb on July 1, 2021, our Treasurer, Stjepan Gotal was elected a member of the Court of Honor, and President Krešimir Mustapić a Coordinator for North and South America and, by agreement of the coordinators, Vice President of the Association.

AMCA Toronto, and the President of the Association, Krešimir Mustapić, also received special recognition for promoting Croatian culture and alumni spirit in Canada and organizing the collec-



tion of donations to the Red Cross of the Republic of Croatia for repairing the damage caused by the earthquakes.

We are grateful to all donors who selflessly raised funds for the AMCA Toronto Croatia Earthquake Relief Fund, amounting to a total of C \$ 21,600.

With the situation normalizing and pandemic conditions stabilizing in Ontario, the Association began planning activities for the rest of the year.

Two more lectures are being prepared, one marking the 50th anniversary of the Croatian Spring and the other the 500th anniversary of the publication of the major epic work of Croatian literature, *Judita* by Marko Marulić.

Also, we are preparing for the award ceremony of the AMCA Toronto scholarship program for students in the community who meet the criteria defined by the rules of our association.

We are also excited about the upcoming Christmas party on December 10, our first in-person gathering since the beginning of the pandemic, when the best candidate will receive the scholarship.

Ana Bačić

Dopredsjednica AMCA-e Toronto

AMCA Quebec member Tomislav Friščić - winner of the Spiridion Brusina Medal

This year's winner of the Spiridion Brusina Medal of the Croatian Society for Natural Sciences (HPD) is Tomislav Friščić, Professor of Chemistry, Tier-1 Canada Research Chair in Mechanochemistry and Solid State Chemistry, McGill University, and a member of AMCA Quebec.

The Spiridion Brusina Medal is awarded to a prominent foreign or Croatian scientist with a permanent residence abroad, whose work has, among other things, helped Croatian science, whether in the form of collaboration with Croatian scien-

tists, scientific work in Croatia, or promotion of Croatian science in the world. In the case of Prof. Friščić, the Medal is awarded for all three forms of activity given his long-term collaboration with Croatian scientists at the Faculty of Science (PMF) and the Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI), his work as an external associate of the RBI, and his role in representing Croatian science and scientific organizations, and supporting Croatian scientists in the world.

Prof. Friščić has maintained uninterrupted rela-



Tomislav Friščić

tions with Croatian scientists since starting his doctoral studies at the University of Iowa (2002-2006), where several other students from Croatia completed their doctoral studies in the same research group led by Prof. MacGillivray; postdoctoral work at the University of Cambridge, where he organized postdoctoral visits of Croatian scientists to the laboratory of Prof. Jones; and throughout his career as a professor at McGill University where he regularly worked with visiting students, doctoral students, and postdoctoral researchers from Croatia. In the last twenty years, he has collaborated with ten students and scientists from Croatia and has published 85 research papers in collaboration with scientists from Croatia or scientists of Croatian origin and edited a special issue of the journal *Crystal Growth & Design* issued by the American Chemical Society. His paper *Halogen-bonded cocrystallization with phosphorus, arsenic and antimony acceptors* (Nature Commun. 2019, 10:61) is an example of his scientific collaboration with Croatian scientists, and the result of the joint work of Prof. Friščić and Prof. Cinčić from the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, including the visit

of doctoral student Katarina Lisac to Montreal, which was ranked among the top ten scientific achievements in the Canadian province of Quebec based on the public vote of the readers of a popular-science journal *Quebec Science*.

Prof. Friščić received the medal “Spiridion Brusina” from his long-term associate and colleague, the Secretary of the Croatian Society for Natural Sciences, Prof. Nenad Judaš from the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science, at this year’s Croatian Meeting of Chemists and Chemical Engineers (HSKIKI) in Mali Lošinj (October 5-8, 2021). Following the award ceremony procedure, Prof. Friščić gave a special popular-scientific lecture in which he presented the links between his work in cleaner, green chemistry and the work of Prof. Brusina, who was an advocate of understanding and preserving Croatian natural heritage. This year’s lecture was given in a new form of an evening lecture during the 27th Croatian Meeting of Chemists and Chemical Engineers (HSKIKI), which allowed Prof. Friščić to establish a closer connection with the audience and present scientific work and history in the form of a story.



Spiridion Brusina Medal - the two sides

The awarding of the Spiridion Brusina Medal to a McGill University laureate is of special significance to AMCA Quebec members because it directly continues the tradition started by our previous winner, AMCA Quebec Honorary President, Prof. Krešimir Krnjević (1927 - 2021).

Prepared by Nenad Judaš, Tomislav Friščić and Ante L. Padjen

Interview with Bartol Šimunić



In the section Eminent Alumni, we talk to Bartol Šimunić, M.E. in Traffic and Transport After graduating from the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences, University of Zagreb, his life and career took him in another direction, that of digital communications. Today, he is the head of the Cabinet of the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia, and in this interview, he reflects on his successes, knowledge, and experience gained during his studies.

Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences, University of Zagreb What were your motives for enrolling in that study program, which also meant you had to leave your hometown as a young man? My desire to study at the University of Zagreb had existed ever since I remember, and I had always wanted to come to a bigger city where I felt more comfortable. After graduating from the Technical School in Zadar, I enrolled at the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences, University of Zagreb, which, I must admit, was not my first choice. My great wish was to become a military pilot, but for certain health reasons, which prevented me from doing so, I had to consider another option. I promised myself that if I didn't fly, I wouldn't even get near a plane, either I was flying the plane or I wasn't there. When choosing the study program, I thought about what could get me a job quickly after graduation, so I decided to enroll in the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences, majoring in logistics because, among other things, I always liked "organization".

What do you consider to be the most important values you have received and adopted while studying?

University has helped me learn many important things in life, the most important one being perseverance. The most transforming experience of my life was the student exchange (*Erasmus*), which was an invaluable life experience that allowed me to meet new people and a new culture, to learn how other universities work, and also to appreciate my country more. There is this beauty in the fact that as a country we are small and relatively irrelevant on the world map, however, we must be aware that such a circumstance provides us with certain security and comfort that others do not have, but also a great need to work on excellence. The chance for small countries to succeed is in fostering excellence.

How did you end up "going in the other direction", which is not the expected continuation of a career after graduating from the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences?

In the first year of study, I enrolled in the Traffic Law course, and I believe that course determined my future. Ana Keglović Horvat, who was an assistant researcher at that time, and later my boss, was conducting an experimental program related to social networks and communications at higher education institutions. At Ana's invitation, I joined the program, along with several other colleagues. I felt at home in this program and decided

that I would complete my studies, but that I would still work in digital communications one day. I got a job right after graduation thanks to the experience I gained working while studying.

How much are you in contact with your Faculty today?

I'm in touch with the colleagues I studied with, and since my life has moved in a different direction, I'm not too connected to the Faculty, which certainly wouldn't be the case if I remained in the same profession. I believe that it is very important to connect the faculties and the economy, i.e., the labor market in such a way that employers can ask the faculty for recommendations on the students to whom they could offer employment. It is perfectly normal for a person looking for a good job to provide recommendations. Finding your first job may be a bit harder, however, if you have a good recommendation, the door to the business world and advancement will always be open to you. That is why it is so important to complete the work shadowing course as part of our studies, but also to work whenever possible.

Can you briefly look back on your beginnings in the business of community management and explain what exactly that encompasses?

I remember the very beginnings when the concept of social networks in Croatia was still in its infancy, to the extent that almost all *Twitter* users in Croatia knew each other, and *Twitter* gatherings were often organized. Our job was to bring certain companies, organizations, and products closer to people through social networks, establish communication with the customers, etc. Community management involves building and maintaining relationships with target groups, it is communication, not advertising - which is often misrepresented today. This is a common element, whether you are selling hotel services, brands, or communicating political content.

You were among the first community managers of the Government when they joined social networks in 2011 and a communication advisor for Mr. Zoran Milanovic in his presidential campaign for the 2019/2020 elections. As someone who communicates through social networks, in this case on behalf of public figures, what do you consider the biggest challenges of digital political communication?

The situation has changed significantly between 2011 and 2020. With such a job, the biggest challenge is to keep a cool head when communicating so this is not a good fit for people with a short fuse. When you get upset, walk around the building until you calm down, but always answer with a cool

head, that's the "golden" advice of community management in politics. We learned a lot from the examples from the USA, Great Britain, and some other countries, but it was necessary to adapt this knowledge to the situation in Croatia. Each country is specific in terms of politics, so you need to know how to adjust your communication to the local community.

Social networks have their particularities and different audiences, so in the context of digital political communication, I am interested in how you see their role and development in the future?

Each social network is a world unto itself because each has a different audience. In Croatia, *Twitter* is mostly used by journalists and public relations people, *Facebook* is becoming more and more a network of the middle generation and the elderly, but I think *Tik Tok* will become the biggest political tool in the future. There is an incredible number of young people who are present on this social network and those who manage to find a formula to "switch" politics to *Tik Tok* will have a lot of success. The short videos and images are very important, while text, unfortunately for politics, is steadily losing importance. I am afraid that short forms are dangerous in politics because too little is being said about what someone truly represents, and there is room for *fake news*. A major challenge for states will be deciding whether and how to restrict the publication of content on the Internet, especially untrue or unscientific content.

You are currently the Head of the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Croatia, and I believe that such a position is a great challenge for you, given the responsibilities it carries, but also an achievement.

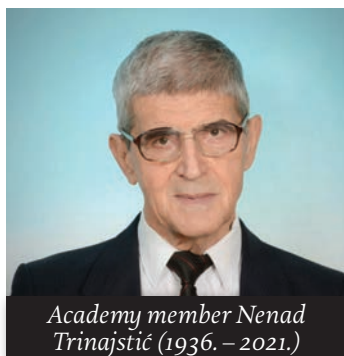
I am glad to be part of President Milanović's team, the job is challenging, but everything is more manageable when the team works well.

At the end of the conversation, can you send a message to all the students and alumni of the University of Zagreb?

Don't let the time you spend at the University consist just of taking exams and visiting community clubs, use this time wisely to discover your unique path. Acquire other knowledge, not just strictly related to the profession, which will enrich your life experience. Travel, meet new people, and follow your ambitions. And finally, get a job while you are still in University, at least a part-time one, it will make things so much easier for you later on.

Thank you for an interesting conversation, and I wish you continued success in your professional work.

Interview by Petra Lojen



Academy member Nenad Trinajstić (1936. – 2021.)

Prof. Nenad Trinajstić, retired scientific advisor and an honored scientist of the Ruđer Bošković Institute, long-term employee and colleague from the Department of Physical Chemistry, full member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts passed away on August 27, 2021, at the age of 85.

Professor Nenad Trinajstić was born on October 26, 1936, in Zagreb, where he finished elementary school (1951) and high school (1956). He graduated from the Department of Chemical Technology at the Faculty of Technology in Zagreb in 1960 and received his master's degree in 1966. In 1967 he received his doctorate from the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb. After graduation, he was employed at Pliva Research Institute. At the beginning of 1962, he transferred to the Ruđer Bošković Institute, where he spent the

rest of his professional life. In 1992, he was elected a full member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and later a member of the Board of Directors.

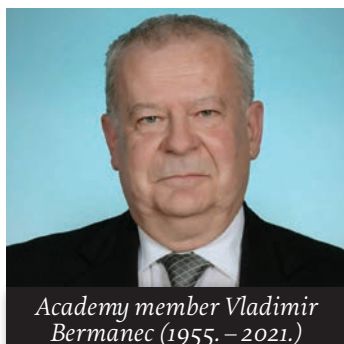
He published more than 500 scientific papers, several hundred professional articles, and 12 books and is one of the most cited Croatian chemists with an h-factor of 59 and more than 15,000 citations. His professional interests included quantum chemical and mathematical methods in chemistry, and his contributions in the field of theory and computational chemistry of molecular graphs represent the foundations of these branches of mathematical chemistry.

Academy member Trinajstić belonged to numerous scientific and cultural societies and associations, such as Matica hrvatska since 1955, the Croatian Chemical Society since 1960, the Croatian PEN Club since 1987, the Croatian Družba Braće Hrvatskoga Zmaja since 1991 (with the dragon name Zmaj Primorski), since 1992 a full member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and since 2005 a member of the International Academy of Mathematical Chemistry.

He won the City of Zagreb Award (1972) Rugjer Bošković Republic Award for Science (1982), the Mid-America State Universities Association Distinguished Foreign Scholar Award (1986), the State Lifetime Achievement Award (2004), and the Božo Težak Medal (2005).

Academy member Trinajstić will be remembered as a respected scientist, expert, and colleague.

Based on sources: <https://www.irb.hr/Novosti/In-memoriam-akademiku-Nenadu-Trinajsticu> and <https://www.info.hazu.hr/2021/08/nenad-trinajstic/>



Academy member Vladimir Bermanec (1955. – 2021.)

A prominent Croatian geologist and mineralogist passed away in Ohrid, on Monday, September 13, 2021, at the age of 67. Academy member Vladimir Bermanec, full professor at the Faculty of Metallurgy, University of Zagreb, a longtime professor at the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb and the president of the Committee for Science and International Cooperation, University of Zagreb, the president of the Rector's Award Committee and a full member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Academy member Bermanec was born on August 8, 1955, in Zagreb, where he graduated in mineralogy from the Department of Geology at the Faculty of Science in 1979, received his master's degree in 1987, and his doctorate in 1992. From 1978 he worked at the Mineralogical and Petrographic Institute

of the Faculty of Science, where he advanced through all academic ranks, from assistant to full professor (2005). He was the head of the Mineralogical and Petrographic Institute (1997–1999), Head of the Geological Department (2001–2003), and the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Science (2004–2006).

He was elected a full member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in the Department of Natural Sciences in 2012, and since 2006 he was an associate member. He was the president of the Committee for Geochemistry of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and an active member of the Croatian Crystallographic Community.

His scientific work focused on the crystallochemical properties of minerals and mineral groups such as plagioclase, microcline, zeolites, mica, amphiboles, garnets, hematites, halite, tetrahedrite, and more than 30 other minerals and mineral groups. He also described a dozen new (hitherto unknown) minerals. He participated in compiling a new encyclopedia of minerals edited by J. A. Mandarin from Canada.

He published more than 40 articles, mostly in co-authorship with renowned foreign experts, and is the author of two university textbooks (one co-authored) on special mineralogy, one of which was awarded the Josip Juraj Strossmayer Prize for Natural Sciences in 2003. He was a member of many international, foreign, and domestic professional societies and commissions.

Academy member Bermanec will be remembered by the scientific community in Croatia and the world, especially in the fields of geology and mineralogy.

Based on sources: <https://www.info.hazu.hr/2021/09/umro-akademik-vladimir-bermanec/>

prepared by Kruno Kovačević

A solemn celebration of the Dies Academicus of the University of Zagreb

On November 3, 2021, a solemn session of the Senate was held at the Croatian National Theater in Zagreb to celebrate the Day of the University of Zagreb. On the eve of the solemn session at the Croatian National Theater, the university delegation laid wreaths at the Mirogoj cemetery and paid tribute to the deceased professors and students of the University of Zagreb.

The ceremony opened with welcome speeches by distinguished guests. Along with the President of the Republic of Croatia Zoran Milanović, the guests at the Croatian National Theater were addressed by the envoy of the President of the Croatian Parliament, Academy member Željko Reiner, the envoy of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Prof. Radovan Fuchs, Minister of Science and Education, President of the Rector's Assembly of the Republic of Croatia, Prof. Snježana Prijic-Samaržija, Rector of the University of Rijeka, and Academy member Dragan Čović, Speaker of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



President Zoran Milanović addresses the assembly

The ceremony continued with a speech by the Rector, Prof. Damir Boras about the University of Zagreb at the start of the 353rd academic year. At the beginning of his address, he pointed out that the value, greatness, and the importance of the University of Zagreb in the Croatian education and higher education system can be best illustrated by the figures, pointing out that in 2019, 36.9% of all students who completed university or professional studies, 70% of doctoral graduates, and 67.7% of teachers and teaching associates on all higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia, were from the University of Zagreb. He pointed out that the University of Zagreb is the leading academic institution in Croatia in terms of the number of patents applied in the last 10 years and nearly as successful as the Ruđer Bošković Institute, and the most successful institution in Croatia in terms of the number of awards won at international and domestic innovation fairs. "Our University is not only a generator of experts needed by the economy, research, and development in

the Republic of Croatia but also a base of experts for dealing with emergencies, such as earthquakes in Zagreb and Banovina or the pandemic of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" he said.

He also stressed that the University owes its continuity and progress to its teachers, researchers, and all its employees with the enduring goal of top-quality education and further improving the scientific work despite the volatile and insufficient funding.



Address by Rector Damir Boras

He concluded his address with the words "I wish our University of Zagreb stays successful and based on the Humboldtian University principles and to remain a true community of teachers, researchers, students, and alumni serving them all, the economy, the society, and above all our Croatian homeland by preserving all universal and constitutional values. *Ut vivat et crescat et floreat, in plena autonomia, Universitas studiorum Zagrabiensis!*"

"Croatia is not a poor country nor is Zagreb a poor city, our capabilities are significantly greater and that is why our largest university deserves more investment from the state, more money," said President Zoran Milanović, adding that as a former student of the University of Zagreb he once went abroad for additional education without any complexes, i.e., with the same level of knowledge as his colleagues, peers from other European countries. "But the University of Zagreb, our largest and oldest university, lags behind these European universities in terms of investment of the state in its work," he said.

President of the Croatian Rector's Conference, Prof. Snježana Prijic-Samaržija, Rector of the University of Rijeka, reminded everyone that the University of Zagreb is the *Alma mater* of all other universities in Croatia. "The tradition of the University of Zagreb is great and binding. On the occasion of this great anniversary, I would like to express my deep gratitude and respect. Our world of science and higher education is both particularly noble and particularly demanding. Noble, because it is driven by an intrinsic motivation to understand. Demanding because hard work is required to achieve

that understanding. That is why it is so important to give our system a place in the society it deserves. The loss of faith in the rule of merit and work we are witnessing is devastating and we have to ask ourselves if we can change that”, said Rector Prijic Samaržija in her speech.



The President of the Croatian Rector's Conference addresses the assembly

At the solemn session, the Rector awarded 23 honorary titles and titles of professor emeritus to the retired professors of the University of Zagreb, awards “Fran Bošnjaković”, “Andrija Mohorovičić”, “Andrija Štampar” and “Ars summa universitatis” for 2021 and the medals of the University of Zagreb.

Due to the epidemiological restrictions and the limited number of seats in the Croatian National Theater, special awards to students and professors, as well as commemorative medals to professors of the University of Zagreb who have retired in the ac. yr. 2020/ 2021, will be delivered later at a special ceremony.

The participants of the ceremonial session of the Senate celebrating the Day of the University of Zagreb enjoyed the performance by Joško Ševo and the Chamber Choir of the Music Academy of the University of Zagreb.

The ceremony concluded with the academic anthem *Gaudeamus igitur*.



Based on the decision of the Senate, on the occasion of the Day of the University, 23 of our retired professors were awarded the honorary title professor emeritus: Hrvoj Vančik, Ivica Džeba, Antun Galović, Branko Jeren, Slavko Krajcar (posthumously), Predrag Kvasnička, Alka Mihelić-Bogdanić,

Mladen Obad Šćitaroci, Jurica Sorić, Bruno Baršić, Marko Duvnjak, Željko Grabarević, Zvonko Kusić, Darko Macan, Branka Zorc, Darko Grbeša, Jagoda Šušković, Ivo Josipović, Dubravka Miljković, Branko Smerdel, Dalibor Blažina, Stipe Grgas, and Ivo Žanić.

■ Recipients of awards and recognitions

The **Fran Bošnjaković Award** of the University of Zagreb for 2021 is awarded *for the achieved scientific results and the promotion of scientific discipline and profession, and exceptional contribution to the transfer of knowledge and education of young experts in technical sciences* is to.

- Ivan Petrović, Ph.D., full professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing
- Ivana Grčić, Ph.D., assistant professor at the Faculty of Geotechnics

The **“Andrija Mohorovičić” Award** of the University of Zagreb for 2021 is awarded *for the achieved scientific results and the promotion of scientific discipline and profession, especially chemistry, and exceptional contribution to the transfer of knowledge and the education of young professionals in natural sciences* to:

- Eduard Marušić Paloka, Ph.D., full professor of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Bruno Tomljenović, Ph.D., full professor at the Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering

The **“Andrija Štampar” Award** of the University of Zagreb for 2021 is awarded *for the achieved scientific results and the promotion of scientific discipline and profession, and exceptional contribution to the transfer of knowledge and in the education of young experts in biomedical sciences* to

- Adriana Vince, Ph.D., full professor at the School of Medicine
- Academy member Davor Miličić, full professor at the School of Medicine
- Vladimir Mrljak, Ph.D., full professor at the School of Veterinary Medicine
- Ivana Miletić, Ph.D., full professor at the School of Dental Medicine
- Lada Rumora, Ph.D., full professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry

The **“Ars summa Universitatis” award** of the University of Zagreb for 2021 is awarded to

- Goran Pristaš, Ph.D., full professor at the Academy of Dramatic Arts
for the promotion of artistic discipline and profession, national culture and art, exceptional contribution to the transfer of knowledge and the education of young professionals in performance arts
- Tonči Žarnić, art., full professor at the Faculty of Architecture
for the promotion of artistic discipline and profession,

national culture, and art, exceptional contribution to the transfer of knowledge and the education of young professionals in architecture

▪ Tamara Ukrainčik, art., full professor at the Academy of Fine Arts

for the promotion of artistic discipline and profession, national culture, and art, exceptional contribution to the transfer of knowledge and the education of young professionals in visual arts.

Winner of the Gold Medal of Honor of the University of Zagreb

▪ His Eminence, Cardinal Josip Bozanić, Grand Chancellor of the Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb and Metropolitan Archbishop of the Zagreb Archdiocese,

for exceptional contribution to the promotion of theological sciences and the affirmation of Croatian identity and Croatian cultural heritage at the University of Zagreb.

■ The University of Zagreb is among the most prestigious universities in the world in 12 disciplines

Academic Ranking of World Universities, better known as the *Shanghai Ranking* published this year's rankings by scientific disciplines (GRAS). This year, the University of Zagreb is ranked among the most prestigious universities in as many as 12 disciplines. The highest-ranking are Maritime Engineering (43rd place), Food Science and Technology (101st - 150th place), and Tourism Management (151st - 200th place). Mathematics, Public Health, and Medical Technology are in the 301st - 400th place, while Physics, Ecology, Biotechnology, Psychology, Clinical Medicine, and Pharmacy are in the 401st - 500th place. Other Croatian universities in this list include the University of Split, which is ranked 201st - 300th in Physics and Biology, and the University of Rijeka, which is ranked 401st - 500th in Human Biology. This prestigious ranking takes into account: the number of scientific papers published in the leading journals (Q1), citations by discipline, international cooperation, prestigious awards received within individual disciplines, and the number of scientific papers in the most prestigious journals according to *Shanghai Ranking's* Academic Excellence Survey. Therefore, ranking on these lists is extremely valuable and represents a strong impetus for further development, not only of science at the University of Zagreb but also of the entire national science.

■ 186 new Doctors of Science and Arts graduate from the University of Zagreb

Two doctoral awards ceremonies of the University of Zagreb were held at the Croatian National Theater in Zagreb on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at 10

am and 1 pm. Rector, Prof. Damir Boras awarded degrees to 186 graduating doctors of science and arts of the University of Zagreb.

Following the ceremony protocol, vice-rectors and deans arrived in a procession led by the rector from the building of the University of Zagreb to the Croatian National Theater, so traffic was temporarily suspended on the north side of the Republike Hrvatske Square.

The doctoral awards ceremonies of the University of Zagreb were held in accordance with the current epidemiological situation and the recommendations and measures of the National Civil Protection Headquarters, the Croatian Institute of Public Health, and the Crisis Headquarters of the University of Zagreb regarding COVID-19. The entrance to the Croatian National Theater was possible only with a COVID certificate.

■ New media project of the University of Zagreb - TV show "University Croatia"



Many public scientific, social, cultural, and artistic activities that take place every day at Croatian universities and that make a significant contribution to the development of society are not presented in the regular programs of HRT's information and educational-scientific program. Therefore, a new show, "University Croatia," was launched in collaboration with National TV.

A new media project of the University of Zagreb has been launched, and the first episode premiered on October 16, 2021, on the 4th channel of Croatian Radio and Television. The series aims to promote and popularize activities at Croatian public universities - the foundations of the development of Croatian cities, the Croatian economy, and Croatian society for more than 350 years.

The show consists of reports covering the events that take place at Croatian universities, and guest appearances by rectors, vice-rectors, academy members, professors, scientists, experts, and others who are actively involved in the legislative, organizational, and financial aspects of current and future activities and changes in higher education, science, and art.

The author of the project, screenwriter, and host of the show is Prof. Miljenko Šimpraga, Vice-Rector

for Innovation, Technology Transfer, and Communications, University of Zagreb.

■ *Srce* celebrates half a century of existence

University Computing Center - Srce celebrated its 50th anniversary. It was founded on April 29, 1971, under the auspices of the University of Zagreb to respond to the needs of the academic community to start a more systematic and comprehensive implementation of new information and communications technologies in education, science, and society in general. Since its establishment, Srce has successfully provided the stakeholders of the science and higher education system with adequate, reliable, and accessible e-infrastructure and digital services that meet their needs, as well as continuous support in the effective use of information and communications technologies.

Srce will celebrate its birthday with numerous activities throughout the year and a dedicated portal 50.srce.hr, that will serve as the hub for the celebratory activities, articles about the history of Srce (Sketches from the Past), archival documents and publications, a photo gallery, and monthly presentations of Srce services.

The 50th-anniversary celebratory activities included the presentation of a commemorative postage stamp "50. anniversary of the University Computing Center" issued by the Croatian Post to commemorate the golden jubilee.

■ Regional Center of Excellence for Robotic Technologies (CRTA) opened



Guests at the opening ceremony of CRTA

On June 28, 2021, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb opened the Regional Center of Excellence for Robotic Technologies (CRTA). This is the first center of excellence for robotics in Croatia, which encompasses the laboratories for autonomous systems, computer intelligence, and medical robotics. The project is estimated at nearly HRK 38 million, with almost HRK 37 million covered from the EU Operational Program "Competitiveness and Cohesion".

The construction of the center, which covers as much as 770 square meters, began late in 2019. The

Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Prof. Dubravko Majetić hosted the opening event, and CRTA project manager Prof. Bojan Jerbić presented the project and the latest achievements in robotics and computer intelligence. The opening ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, Rector of the University of Zagreb Damir Boras, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Tomislav Čorić, Minister of Science and Education Radovan Fuchs, and other distinguished guests.

■ The best student-athletes awarded at the "most athletic" European university



On Thursday, October 7, 2021, at the Stjepan Radić Student Campus, the Sports Office of the University of Zagreb and the Zagreb University Sports Federation held the traditional award ceremony for the best student-athletes of the University of Zagreb. Since the award ceremony in the ac. yr. 2019/2020 had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, awards were given to students for two academic years (2019/2020 and 2020/2021).

Students were awarded recognitions in several categories. The University of Zagreb was recognized as the most athletic university in Europe among 600 European universities that competed for the title, so the judging committee for student laureates had a hard time selecting the best of the best in the world of student sports.

The best squads of the University of Zagreb were the university national squad in beach volleyball (ac. yr. 2019/2020) and the volleyball squad (ac. yr. 2020/2021), and the best teams were the university basketball team 3x3 (ac. yr. 2019/2020) and the university futsal team (ac. yr. 2020/2021).

The best female athletes of the University are Gabrijele Gaiser, a student of the Faculty of Economics (ac. year. 2019/2020) and Josipa Bebek, a student of the Faculty of Kinesiology (ac. yr. 2020/2021), and the best male athletes are Ante Žužul, a student of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (ac. yr. 2019/2020) and Matija Lukić, another student of the Faculty of Kinesiology (ac. yr. 2020/2021).

Paula Pavletić and Petra Lojen

