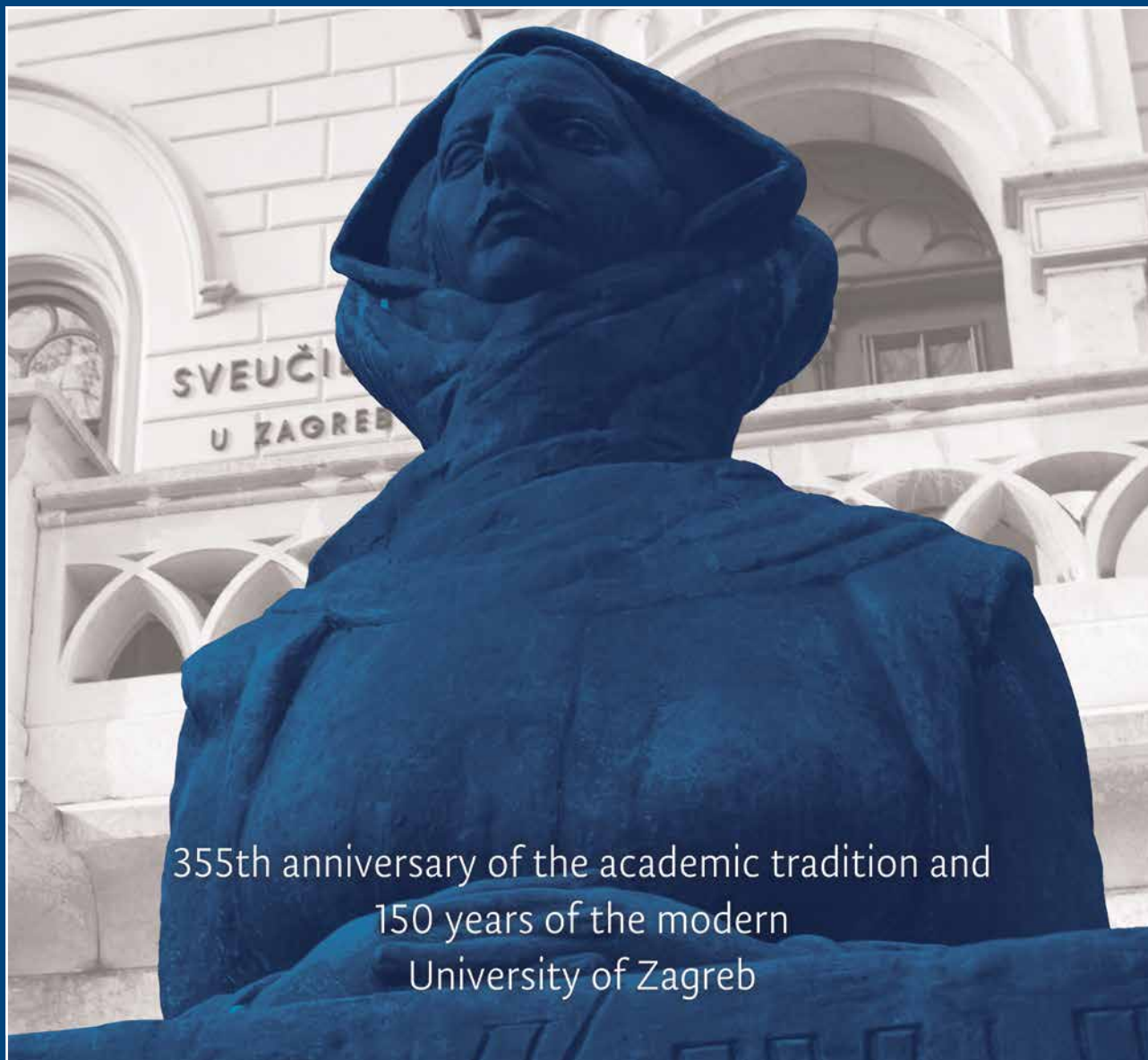


ALUMNI UNIZG

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ALUMNI
UNIVERSITATIS
STUDIORUM
ZAGRABIENSIS



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



355th anniversary of the academic tradition and
150 years of the modern
University of Zagreb

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33

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Dear Colleagues and Alumni,

At the beginning of this year, we present to you the 33rd edition of Glasnik. We wish you happiness, health, and a successful professional year! As usual, Glasnik provides a review of all the valuable things we and more importantly, you accomplished throughout 2024. The University Week has expanded into a two-week event, so I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the University Administration for their efforts

and the successful execution of numerous events over the past year, especially during the University Week. The many events we organized oblige us to intensify our planning and implementation of alumni activities in the coming period. This includes preparing for the Association Electoral Assembly in June 2025, as well as continuing our alumni stories, professional lectures, and panel discussions. Our goal is to further strengthen and systematically promote the importance and values of our University, with a special emphasis on socially responsible behavior among all of us graduates and alumni who have a duty to support our faculties and the University. This is the best way to contribute to the further development of study programs, the tracking of alumni careers, and the wholehearted support of current students. We hope the articles in this Glasnik will engage you and remind you how important it is to be a responsible alumnus, so that together, we can be a driving force for our University's continued progress!

Mario Šafran



University
of Zagreb

ALUMNI
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ZAGABIENSIS

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Solemn Celebration of 150 Years of the Modern University



Ceremonial session of the Senate

The history of the University of Zagreb, the oldest continuously operating university in Croatia and one of the most significant and largest academic institutions, dates back to September 23, 1669. On that day, Emperor and King Leopold I issued a charter recognizing the status and privileges of a university institution to the Jesuit Academy and its philosophy studies in the free royal city of Zagreb. This recognition was confirmed on November 3, 1671, by the Croatian Parliament. For this reason, the year 1669 is considered the founding year of the University, and November 3 is celebrated as University Day in Zagreb. For the modern history of the University of Zagreb, the most significant figure is Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer. He initiated major national projects, including the establishment of the Academy of Sciences and the foundation of the modern University of Zagreb. On his initiative, in 1861, the Croatian Parliament adopted a legal framework for a university comprising four faculties: Law, Medicine, Theology, and Philosophy. The Royal University of Franz Joseph I in Zagreb was officially opened on October 19, 1874, with Professor Matija Mesić elected as its first rector. Therefore, from November 4 to 16, 2024, the University of Zagreb marked the 150th anniversary of the modern University with a series of events as part of University Week in Zagreb. Below are some of the highlights of this celebration.

Ceremonial Session of the Senate

The Senate session held on November 6, 2024, at the SEECEL building was the central ceremony marking the University of Zagreb Day and the 150th anniversary of the modern University. The event was attended by numerous guests, including rectors of Croatian and

AWARDING OF THE HONORARY TITLE OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS

- Prof. Hrvoje Banfić, Ph.D., Faculty of Medicine
- Prof. Predrag Sikirić, Ph.D., Faculty of Medicine
- Prof. Velimir Sušić, Ph.D., Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- Prof. Marina Ajduković, Ph.D., Faculty of Law
- Prof. Dalibor Čepulo, Ph.D., Faculty of Law
- Prof. Melita Kovačević, Ph.D., Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences
- Prof. Branka Matković, Ph.D., Faculty of Kinesiology
- Prof. Morana Čale, Ph.D., Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Prof. Miljenko Jurković, Ph.D., Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Prof. Zygfryd Eckardt Gehrmann, Ph.D., Faculty of Croatian Studies
- Prof. Vlasta Čosović, Ph.D., Faculty of Science
- Academician Marko Tadić, Faculty of Science
- Prof. Zoran Vondraček, Ph.D., Faculty of Science
- Prof. Dubravko Rogale, Ph.D., Faculty of Textile Technology
- Full Prof. of Art Branko Mihanović, Academy of Music
- Full Prof. of Art Vlatka Oršanić, Academy of Music
- Full Prof. of Art Tonči Žarnić, Faculty of Architecture



Thank you speech by Melita Kovačević on behalf of Professores Emeriti

foreign universities, vice-rectors, deans, professors, and other distinguished guests. Following the opening address by the Rector, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D., speeches were given by the newly elected president of the Student Council, Katja Popović, the president of the Rectors' Council of the Republic of Croatia and the Rector of J.J. Strossmayer University in Osijek, Prof. Vlado Guberac Ph.D., the vice-president of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academician Davor Miličić, the Mayor of the City of Zagreb, Tomislav Tomašević, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, and Culture, Prof. Vesna Bedeković Ph.D. and the Minister of Science, Education and Youth, Prof. Radovan Fuchs Ph.D. The ceremonial Senate session continued with a presentation by Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., who spoke about development perspectives and current and future activities and initiatives of the University of Zagreb at the beginning of its 356th academic year. Among other topics, the Rector specifically addressed the renovation of buildings and infrastructure after the earthquake, particularly the restoration of the University building on Trg Republike Hrvatske, which, as a cultural monument, represents the most complex part of this process. He also discussed steps in the further development of the strategic project for the Borongaj Science and University Campus, the University's participation in the European University Alliance UNIC, activities related to expanding partnerships with international higher education and research institutions, work on university documents and strategies, the activities of the Economic Council and strengthening collaboration with the economy, as well as the organization of the University of Zagreb Economic Forum in April of the following year. Additionally, he highlighted the opening of the Student Counseling Center and the Gaudeamus student restaurant in the SEECEL building, student scholarship programs, the work of the University Council, the UNIART project, the organization of the University of Zagreb Fair, and other initiatives. The Rector also spoke about current activities at the University, particularly emphasizing the process of modernizing existing and developing new study programs that consider the current labor market needs, the further development of doctoral studies, the adoption of strategic guidelines in several different areas (science and research, digitalization), media projects of the University, and more.

Rector's Award for the Academic Year 2023/2024

On Thursday, November 7, 2024, the official award ceremony for the Rector's Award for the academic year 2023/2024 took place, along with several events in which the award-winning students participated. In his address to the awarded students, Rector Professor Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. emphasized that the Rector's Award is the highest and often the first major recognition for students for their achievements in research and socially beneficial work, especially praising their willingness to engage in scientific work, research, and innovation early in their studies, without which there can be no progress in the economy and society as a whole. The Rector also extended special congratulations to the mentors who dedicate much time and attention to their students, involving them in their research to inspire their desire for knowledge and

UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB AWARDS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

The University of Zagreb awards are given annually to distinguished individuals for their outstanding achievements, promotion of their discipline and profession, as well as for knowledge transfer and mentoring of young professionals in their respective fields. Congratulations to all recipients of this year's awards:

Andrija Štampar Award (Field of Biomedicine and Health Sciences): Prof. Jasmina Lovrić, Ph.D., Prof. Branka Marinović, Ph.D., Prof. Željko Pavičić, Ph.D., Prof. Sven Seiwert, Ph.D. and Assoc. Prof. Arjana Tambić Andrašević, Ph.D.

Praemium Biotechnicum Award (Field of Biotechnical Sciences): Prof. Duška Čurić, Ph.D., Prof. Željko Škvorc, Ph.D. and Prof. Nikica Šprem, Ph.D.

Alica Wertheimer Baletić Award (Field of Social Sciences): Prof. Nina Begičević Redžep, Ph.D., Prof. Dubravka Hrabar, Ph.D. and Prof. Mario Kasović, Ph.D.

Viktor Žmegač Award (Field of Humanities): Prof. Lada Čale Feldman Ph.D. and Prof. Danijel Tolvajčić, Ph.D.

Andrija Mohorovičić Award (Field of Natural Sciences): Prof. Sandra Babić, Ph.D.

Fran Bošnjaković Award (Field of Technical Sciences): Prof. Ana Lončarić Božić, Ph.D. and Prof. Tanja Pušić, Ph.D.

Ars Summa Universitatis Award (Field of Arts): Full Prof. Art. Suzana Damiani, Ph.D., Full Prof. Art. Bernarda Fruk, Ph.D. and Full Prof. Art. Goran Končar, Ph.D.

Innovator of the Year Award Asst. Prof. Fabio Faraguna, Ph.D.

University Innovation of the Year Award Asst. Prof. Vladimir Cviljušac, Ph.D.

research curiosity during their studies. On behalf of the awarded students, the ceremony was addressed by Katja Popović, the president of the Student Council of the University of Zagreb, whose project was awarded the Rector's Award, highlighting that this award motivates students to continue their educational journey, expand their horizons, contribute to the community, and become responsible leaders of the future and drivers of significant social change.

This year, a total of 110 Rector's Awards were given in five categories: 79 awards for individual scientific and artistic work by one or two authors, 12 awards for team scientific and artistic work by three to ten authors, five awards for larger-scale scientific and artistic work – team scientific and artistic work (more than ten authors), three awards for special competitive achievements by individuals or teams (on the proposal of the head of a department or the rector), and 11 awards for socially beneficial work in the academic and broader community (on the proposal of the head of a department or the rector).



The welcome speech by the Rector

The Exhibit Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Modern University of Zagreb

In the foyer of the University Hall, on Monday, November 11th, an exhibition titled “355th anniversary of the academic tradition and 150 years of the modern University of Zagreb” was ceremoniously opened. The exhibition showcases the rich academic heritage of the University of Zagreb, preserved in numerous and diverse university, archival, museum, and heritage collections. The exhibition about the beginnings and development of the modern University was organized by the Central Office for Archival Materials of the University of Zagreb and was ceremoniously opened by the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. in the presence of numerous guests from cultural, ecclesiastical, and public life, as well as members of the academic community.

University Gala Concert

On November 8th, a ceremonial university gala concert was held in the festive hall of the SEECEL building. Along with the Symphony Orchestra of Croatian Radio and Television conducted by Maestro Davor Kelić, the gala concert featured soprano Josipa Bilić and tenor Roko Radovan. The program included overtures, arias, duets, and excerpts from the most famous operatic works by Lisinski, Puccini, Verdi,



Soprano Josipa Bilić

Gounod, Bizet, and Lehár. In addition to its artistic value, the university gala concert, which was attended by a full audience in the festive hall of the SEECEL building, further demonstrated the long-standing tradition of the University of Zagreb. The rich music program was performed by distinguished musicians, most of whom originated from the Academy of Music of the University of Zagreb. In his welcome speech, the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. stated that “life without culture, art, and music would be a mistake.” Alongside representatives from the Ministry of Culture and Media and the City of Zagreb, the concert was attended by former President Ivo Josipović, former rectors, other high-ranking guests, and many members of the academic community. The concert was organized in collaboration with the Symphony Orchestra of Croatian Radio and Television, and the concept and realization were the work of Vice Rector for Art, Culture, and Inter-University Cooperation at the University of Zagreb, Prof. Art. Jasenka Ostojić, Ph.D. and the head of the Music Department of HRT, Ivana Kocelj. The ceremonial program was hosted by Jana Haluza.

The International Scientific Conference “Canon and Church Law at Public Universities”

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the modern University and the appointment of the first Rector, Matija Mesić, on November 11th and 12th, 2024, an international scientific conference was held under the title “Canon and Church Law at a Public University.” Matija Mesić was a priest, university professor, historian, and primarily a professor of canon law. The establishment of the modern University in Zagreb took place during the formation of modern states and the emergence of modern nations, which, in the Croatian territories in the second half of the 19th century, prompted the establishment of key institutions of the Croatian people. Professors of canon and church law (and these disciplines in general) played a significant role in this, among whom Matija Mesić stands out as the first rector, elected among the professors of the three founding faculties of the modern University. The international scientific conference at the University of Zagreb not only marked this event but also emphasized the role and fundamental importance of canon and church law and their professors in the development of modern higher education, universities, science,



Panelists Josip Pavić, Martin Sinković and Ivica Kostelić

knowledge transfer, and overall advancement, as well as key institutions of the Croatian people, such as Matica Hrvatska, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and others. Canon and church law have become inseparably linked to the modern University of Zagreb, giving it a mark of progress, recognizability, and involvement in global trends due to the universality of these branches of law.

The Gathering 'University with a big heart'

As part of the event titled "University with a big heart," numerous humanitarian activities and volunteer projects from the University of Zagreb's constituent units were presented. The president of the working group "University with a big heart" was Prof. Art. Jasminka Končić, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Textile Technology, who, in her opening speech, emphasized that the activities carried out by students at the University of Zagreb's constituent units are mainly focused on improving the quality of life and helping various vulnerable groups and individuals. The event program involved 16 faculties of the University of Zagreb, with the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences being the constituent unit with the most humanitarian activities. Some of the projects contributed by the students of this faculty include: OSI Projects – Discover, Understand, Experience!, International Stuttering Awareness Day, Spectrum of (Mis)understanding of Autism, Through Hands to the Heart, collecting toys and picture books, a charity concert in Žabac, Red Cape Day, the project "How Not to Make a Student a Bully – Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia," making the film *Hear Me Out*, International Month of Awareness for Augmentative Communication, and others. A panel discussion titled "Study and Humanitarian Work – A Path to an Inclusive Society" was held as part of the event, where Prof. Damir Ljubotina, Ph.D. from the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences spoke about the benefits of volunteering

and humanitarian work and its impact on individuals. Antonela Perši, president of the Student Council of the Faculty of Teacher Education, spoke about the Advent University project, in which students organize children's plays and workshops and create various decorative items with the aim of strengthening the Christmas spirit. Iva Kirac, MD from the Clinic for Tumors at the Sisters of Mercy University Hospital spoke about the Site-Specific Art project conducted by the Academy of Fine Arts in collaboration with the Art and Medicine Center at the Clinic. She emphasized that the Center started operating in 2011, and since then, they have introduced dance therapy, music therapy, and art therapy for patients.

Presentation of Top Sports Achievements

As part of the University Week, on November 13, 2024, a presentation was held on the university's sports achievements in 2024, followed by a panel discussion on the topic "The path to success, elite sports and studying." The impressive results that student-athletes at the University of Zagreb achieve continue to grow year after year, so it is no surprise that the presentation of all their sports feats was filled with numerous superlatives. For the third consecutive year, the University of Zagreb can proudly claim the title of the best and most active university in Europe, and as if that wasn't enough, last academic year, the futsal team from our university brought home gold from the World University Championship in China, adding another title to the University of Zagreb – the one of the World University Champion.

The panel discussion focused on the importance of sports for health and promoting sports participation among students, their interest in sports, and when they eventually pursue a professional sports career, as well as their success in studying and managing dual careers. The panelists were: multiple-time world and Olympic medalist in water polo, State Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Josip Pavić; Director of

the Office for Programs of National Sports Federations and Development Programs, Neven Šavora; Chair of the Commission for Dual Careers of Athletes of the Croatian Olympic Committee and member of the Educational Commission of EUSA, Prof. Romana Caput Jogunica, Ph.D.; Croatia's most decorated skier and advisory coach, and alumnus of the University of Zagreb, Ivica Kostelić; multiple-time gold medalist in European, World, and Olympic rowing, and also a former student of the University of Zagreb, Martin Sinković; student of the University of Zagreb, goalkeeper of the futsal national team, and winner of the world and European gold medals for the University, member of Futsal Dinamo and the Croatian national team, and best goalkeeper of the 1st SHMNL in 2023/2024, Ante Piplica; and student of the University of Zagreb, multiple-time European medalist for the University, Croatian representative, and professional table tennis player, Andrea Pavlović.

University Book Day

During the University Book Day held on November 15, special awards were presented to the most productive components of the University of Zagreb for their contributions to the creation of university teaching literature in the series *Manualia Universitatis studiorum Zagrabienensis*. The event continued with a panel titled "From Covers to Screens." The panelists included: Prof. Božo Skoko, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Political Science, Prof. Romana Matanovac Vučković, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Law, Assoc. Prof. Tanja Jurin, Ph.D. from the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Katja Popović, President of the Student Council of the University of Zagreb. During the panel, participants discussed topics such as the use of books in teaching, the role of university teaching literature in the internationalization of universities, generational differences, and the impact of technological progress on learning and understanding content. The issue of copyright and open access to educational content was also addressed. The second panel, titled "Perspectives of Successful Authors," featured authors and reviewers of university teaching literature: Prof. Dražen Begić, Ph.D., academician Andrej Dujella, Prof. Emeritus Ivo Alfirević, and Prof. Marin Vodanović, Ph.D. During this panel, the participants shared their experiences in creating university teaching literature, discussed challenges they faced, talked about achieving international visibility for teaching literature, and offered advice to future authors. Additionally, as part of the event, Assoc. Prof. Ivan Obadić, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb gave a lecture titled "The Impact of Citation on the Academic Community and Universities."

A New Student Restaurant Gaudeamus Opened in the SEECEL Building

At the University of Zagreb, in the space of the Regional Center for Entrepreneurial Competence Development for Southeast European Countries (SEECEL), the student restaurant Gaudeamus was

opened on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. This is the first restaurant of the Student Center in Zagreb that has opened in the New Zagreb area, with a capacity of 80 seating places. The restaurant is intended not only for students but also for professors and employees of the University of Zagreb.



Rector with students of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences

"29th University of Zagreb Fair"

The University of Zagreb Fair, the largest event for high school graduates, future and current students in the Republic of Croatia, was held from November 14 to 16, 2024, at the Zagreb Fair Grounds. This event is organized by the University every year to provide senior-year high school students, university students, and all interested parties with information about study programs, admission requirements, student life, and many other details, important for young people when deciding to enroll in a university and choosing their future profession. All components of the University of Zagreb were represented at the Fair – 31 faculties and 3 artistic academies.

After the ceremonial opening of the Exhibition, a panel discussion was held titled "How to Make (Student) Life Easier for Students?". Along with the rector, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., the panel included Dijana Mandić, Director of the Directorate for Higher Education in the Ministry of Science, Education, and Youth, Zdravko Marić, Ph.D., former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Croatia, Prof. Božo Skoko, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Political Science, and Katja Popović, the newly elected President of the Student Council of the University of Zagreb. The panelists discussed ways in which students can balance academic responsibilities and free time, issues related to student standards and concerns about student health, the importance of developing interdisciplinary study programs that will allow students to gain specific knowledge and skills across various scientific fields, national and university-level scholarships, the use of new technologies in teaching and learning processes, and the challenges posed by artificial intelligence. Additionally, during the discussion, the panelists addressed the competitiveness of future professionals educated at the University of Zagreb in the job market, as well as the cooperation between the University and the economy, particularly in relation to student internships.

source: University website



Participants of the Assembly

Assembly of ALUMNI UNIZG Association

At the School of Medicine on Thursday, July 4, 2024, the Assembly of the Alumni Association of the University of Zagreb – ALUMNI UNIZG was held. The event began with a welcome speech by the President of the Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., who thanked the management of the School of Medicine for their hospitality. The Vice Dean for New Study Programs and Quality Assurance, Assoc. Prof. Lana Škrgatić, Ph.D. then addressed the assembly, emphasizing that the Association plays a key role in connecting current and former students, thus further strengthening the academic community. “Olympic sports achievements are the result of excellence and complete dedication to the work, and individuals who manage to simultaneously develop an academic career are truly the best of the best, and we should all provide them with much greater support,” said Prof. Škrgatić. During the working part of the session, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D. presented the report on the activities of the Presidency of the Association for the period from July 2023 to July 2024. In his report on the achievements of the Association over

the past year, he particularly highlighted the publication of the Glasnik in Croatian and English, the project for granting e-mail addresses with an alumni domain, and the “Alumni Stories” cycle. He concluded his presentation with the thought that “the Association continuously provides support to the faculties of the University and alumni associations in the country and abroad.” It should be noted that the Association continuously operates in accordance with the strategy and action plan, as well as the defined mission of the Association: spreading awareness of the alumni idea and culture as a form of socially responsible behavior in Croatian society; enhancing the reputation and promoting the name of the University; increasing the sense of belonging and loyalty of alumni to their Alma Mater; improving the living and working conditions of alumni; strengthening the connections between the University and generations of former and current students, as well as their friends, in the country and abroad; and protecting the common interests of the Alma Mater.



Panelists at the Alumni story

Alumni story: “Diploma with an Olympic Signature”

As part of the Assembly of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, an Alumni story titled “Diploma with an Olympic Signature” was held. It featured the Chairperson of the Commission for Dual Careers in Sport of the Croatian Olympic Committee, Prof. Romana Caput-Jogunica, Ph.D., orthopedic specialist and bronze Olympic medalist in rowing, Associate Prof. Tomislav Smoljanović, Ph.D. and operational manager and bronze Olympic medalist in taekwondo, Martina Zubčić Dušak. The discussion was moderated by Prof. Veljko Đorđević, Ph.D. Speaking about the importance of introducing children and youth to sports and physical activities from an early age, Prof. Romana Caput-Jogunica, Ph.D. emphasized that at the university level, there is a need to strengthen the role of sports and create conditions for a balanced and successful dual career for student-athletes. The system should not only recognize and value the achievements of top athletes but also of all student-athletes. She also highlighted the necessity of investing in sports infrastructure at the University of Zagreb, which does not meet current needs. “We often celebrate athletes for their achievements, without considering that we all have an obligation to create conditions for their successful studies and sports careers,” said Prof. Caput-Jogunica. Associate Prof. Tomislav Smoljanović, Ph.D., alumnus of the School of Medicine, recalled his studies and active involvement in rowing, winning

a bronze medal in the eight at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Emphasizing the importance of engaging in sports and balancing academic and athletic obligations, he said that elite sports enable an individual to push their boundaries. “Sports also teach you how to lose, build character, and provide an opportunity to test your own limits.” Alumna of the Faculty of Economics, Martina Zubčić Dušak, won a bronze medal in taekwondo at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. As the youngest Olympic medalist for Croatia and the first Croatian Olympic medalist in taekwondo, she reflected on the transition from the sports world to the labor market. “It is important to allow athletes to gain work experience during their active professional sports careers.” Speaking about the challenges and limitations athletes face during their studies, she particularly emphasized the need for a more flexible educational process for student-athletes. The event concluded with Professor Đorđević highlighting the importance of fostering a sense of belonging to one’s university among alumni. “Be proud of the institution where you received your education and which provided the foundation for your further professional development,” he said. In the musical part of the program, the Greenhill Club ensemble, conducted by Prof. Bruno Baršić, Ph.D., President of the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb – AMAMUZ, participated.

The recordings of Alumni stories from the ALUMNI UNIZG Association can be viewed on the University of Zagreb’s YouTube channel: [UniZg-YouTube](#)

Alumni Story: “Two Degrees - One Passion,” with Goran Bogdan and Robert Knjaz

In the premises of the University of Zagreb, in the building of the Regional Center for the Development of Entrepreneurial Competencies for Southeastern Europe, on February 23, 2024, another “Alumni Story” was held, with actor Goran Bogdan and director Robert Knjaz as guests. Both distinguished alumni of the University of Zagreb earned two degrees at the largest and oldest Croatian university – one at the Faculty of Economics and the other at the Academy of Dramatic Art. During the conversation, they reminisced about their student days, their motivation for enrolling in two programs, and student life in Zagreb in past decades. While studying at the Faculty of Economics, Goran Bogdan was involved in amateur theater. At the time, he was, as he says, completely in love with macroeconomics, but after passing the entrance exam at the Academy of Dramatic Art, “he cut off everything he had been doing up until then and went in a new direction.” Robert Knjaz, although his initial wish was to study at the Academy of Dramatic Art or the Faculty of Architecture, found his place at the Faculty of Economics, graduating in marketing. During the war, he filmed at the front and started the Dugave cable television. All these experiences eventually led him back to the Academy, and at 37, he became a directing student and successfully completed the program. Reflecting on the differences in studying at two very different components of the University, Robert particularly emphasized that the entire study concept was completely different. “One of the differences was certainly the size of the study groups. At Economics, in a group of students with last names from K to M, there were 120 of us, while at the Academy, four enrolled students were split into two groups. At the time, I thought—what kind of group is this with two people, is it a couple?” he jokingly recalled. Both Goran and Robert say they adopted good work habits early on and did various student jobs, which they believe helped them a lot in life. Robert, for this reason, teaches his children from a young age to work and not depend on anyone. “The biggest ‘trick’ in overcoming all the obstacles in learning and what is difficult is finding love within yourself, because it creates motivation and a high level of engagement with what we do,” said Goran. Robert agrees, advising future students that when choosing a program, it is most important to decide on something they love. “I am lucky that I still do a job I love. The enthusiasm for directing and creating something new is something I feel every day.” Both guests emphasized the importance of maintaining connections between the University and its former students, and when asked what they would change about the programs they attended, Robert said: “...I would have liked more practice, but I think that’s not up to the University, but society in general. I believe it’s important to connect more with the industry so



Goran Bogdan and Robert Knjaz

that students gain practical experience during their studies.” Goran agreed, highlighting the importance of better cooperation and networking in a broader context. Robert and Goran especially emphasized the importance of lifelong learning and continuous education. “The fact that I studied for 27 years shows that I really enjoy learning, and my job is, in fact, one big learning experience. I think lifelong learning is a great joy and a huge privilege. Every new day is an opportunity to learn something new,” said Robert. Goran agreed, stating that “the University, i.e., pedagogy, is one of the main formative parts of our society. I believe we all need to dedicate our time to promoting the importance of education and helping young people in their further development.” The guests delivered motivational messages to current and future students, agreeing that the study period is a privileged time in life that should be fully enjoyed. “Dear students and those who feel like one, studying is a privileged period in life, enjoy every second because you have the opportunity to relax and just absorb knowledge. I would like to thank all our professors because without them, there would be no us or our knowledge,” said Robert. “Students, find love within yourself and love what you do. I think that is the greatest blessing and the path to a much more beautiful and fulfilling life,” said Goran. The “Alumni Story” was also attended by Prof. Jurica Pavičić, Ph.D., the Vice-Rector for International and Interinstitutional Cooperation of the University of Zagreb, who particularly emphasized the importance of maintaining connections between the University and its former students and friends, stating that he believes there will be even more events like this in the future. Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, thanked the guests for the interesting conversation, emphasizing that alumni are the strength of the University yesterday, today, and even more so tomorrow. The “Alumni Story” was moderated by Mislav Togonal.

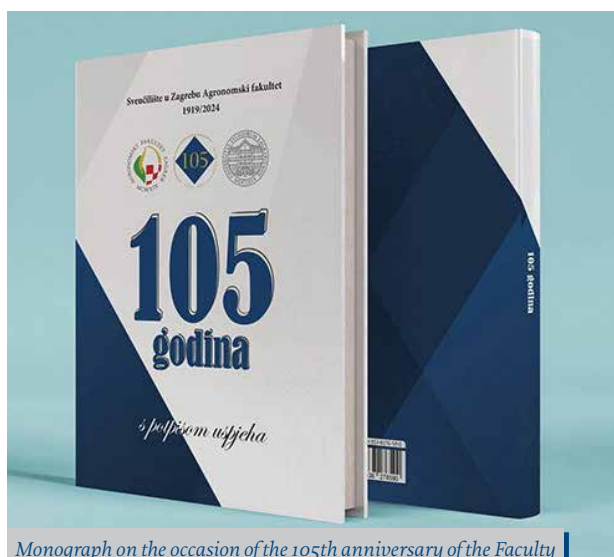
Paula Pavletić and Petra Lojen



Ceremonial session

AMAC-Alumni FAZ 105 Years of the Faculty of Agriculture

This year, the Faculty of Agriculture is celebrating its 105th anniversary. The history of the Faculty of Agriculture dates back to the distant past and it is the fifth oldest component of the University of Zagreb. In 1919, by Royal Decree, the Faculty of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences was established in Zagreb. In 1921, an experimental field was purchased in Maksimir, and in 1934, the first pavilion in Maksimir was completed, and the Faculty moved to its current location. In 1959, after the division of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, the Faculty of Agriculture continued to operate independently, and in 1978, its name was changed to the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. In 1992, it received its current name. This great anniversary is marked by numerous events at the Faculty, organized in collaboration with AMAC-Alumni FAZ, with the most important ones listed in this article.



Monograph on the occasion of the 105th anniversary of the Faculty

The official opening of the renovated pavilions

On March 19, 2024, after the official completion of all work on the pavilions, the Faculty of Agriculture ceremoniously opened the renovated spaces with a special program, based on the implementation of the operation "Renovation of Buildings Damaged in the Earthquake at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture," which was co-financed by the European Union Solidarity Fund and the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism. The total value amounted to €16,701,738.68, which allowed for the renovation of approximately 8,500 square meters, and the Faculty was modernly equipped with new office, laboratory, and classroom furniture. The opening ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, the Rector of the University of Zagreb with vice-rectors, the Minister of Science and Education, the Minister of Agriculture, several state secretaries, the Director of the Central Agency for Financing and Contracting EU Programs and Projects, as well as former rectors of the University of Zagreb, academicians, deans, and vice-deans of the University of Zagreb faculties, representatives of other Croatian universities, employees and students of the Faculty of Agriculture, and many other honorary guests. On behalf of the Faculty of Agriculture, the guests were hosted by Dean Ivica Kisić with vice-deans.

A Ceremonial Session

The ceremonial session was held on September 26, 2024, in the ceremonial hall of the SEECEL building at the University of Zagreb. The session was attended by around 400 guests, among whom were distinguished high-ranking officials, including the President of the Republic of Croatia, the Rector of the University of Zagreb with Vice Rectors, the representative of the

President of the Croatian Parliament, the representative of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, the Minister of Science, Education and Youth, the Mayor of the City of Zagreb, numerous state secretaries, county prefects, and deputy prefects. In addition, the session was attended by academicians, emeritus professors, vice rectors, deans, and vice deans of faculties from Croatia and abroad (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia), directors, and representatives of state, government, and non-governmental institutions, institutes, chambers, societies, media, as well as numerous businesspeople, with the President of the Board of the Podravka Group addressing the audience on their behalf. The session was also attended by retired and current professors, staff, and students of the Faculty of Agriculture, to whom awards, recognitions, and acknowledgments were presented on the occasion of the 105th anniversary. The musical program was performed by the Chamber Orchestra of the University of Zagreb, led by Joža Haluz and soprano Josipa Lončar. In his speech and presentation of the faculty's work, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Ivica Kisić, focused on the successes that students and staff achieve through their projects and scientific research. He emphasized that the international ranking of the Faculty of Agriculture has always been exceptional, as both the "Shanghai" and "Taiwan" rankings place the Faculty as one of the best components of the University of Zagreb, according to international evaluations, for which scientists are primarily responsible. Furthermore, he noted that it has never been harder to engage in agriculture, as agriculture is an outdoor factory, and increasingly rising temperatures and less rain in this part of Europe create significant challenges. He concluded by stating that there is no more beautiful job or profession than feeding people with food and quenching their thirst with drinks.

The 20th National Plowing Competition

The 20th Jubilee State Plowing Competition was held on September 28, 2024, in Mraclin near Velika Gorica, at the Faculty of Agriculture's demonstration field. The event brought together the best plowmen from 13 counties – 13 participants in the plowshare category and 12 in the moldboard plow category. The competition is practical and accessible to our plowmen,



Participants of the Competition

as it offers both necessary education in handling a tractor and plow and the opportunity to compete and measure skills. The Republic of Croatia has a long agricultural history, and plowing, as a fundamental agricultural activity, has always held a special place. Over the centuries, plowing techniques have changed and improved, but the core has remained the same – an unwavering dedication to preserving and enhancing the land, as proven during this competition.

The Monograph on the 30th Anniversary of the Plowing Competition in the Republic of Croatia

The Faculty of Agriculture has published a monograph on the 30th anniversary of plowing competitions in the Republic of Croatia. The monograph provides a historical overview of plowing competitions that were held in Croatia. Plowing itself, as a soil cultivation method that forms the backbone of traditional soil cultivation systems, is historically much older. From the time of using the plow, then wooden plows, wooden plows with iron shares, to the design of modern plows for various soil types, single-furrow plows for flat land, multi-furrow turn plows, as well as plows for ridging, the amount and source of energy used for this special soil cultivation process have evolved. Although many predicted that the plow would be completely eliminated from soil cultivation in recent decades, it is undeniable that conservation tillage methods are taking on an increasingly important role in soil cultivation, but traditional plowing will still play a role in soil cultivation in the future.

Ana Matin

AMCA-ERF Activities in 2024

The visibility of the University of Zagreb, Croatian Association of Graduates of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation (AMCA-ERF) in 2024 was supported by organizing the Electoral Assembly, the International Student Congress ERFUSS, and interesting podcasts DijaLOG and ERPOST by our students from the Speech Therapy and Educational Rehabilitation programs.

Electoral Assembly of AMCA-ERF

The Electoral Assembly of the Croatian Association of Graduates of AMCA-ERF was held on April 15, 2024, in the Mljet hall of the home faculty, and the occasion was the retirement of the long-time president. The assembly was held in a hybrid model, and all attendees were greeted by Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., president of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association. At the beginning of

the Electoral Assembly, two invited lectures were held, and two alumni stories were shared by our esteemed members, Assistant Professor Maja Kelić, Ph.D. and Sanja Horvatić, Ph.D.

In the introductory presentation "Reading Travelogue," Assistant Professor Maja Kelić, Ph.D., as a reader and scientist, provided an interesting perspective on reading as a complex process that is neither easy nor pleasant for individuals. The basic ideas about reading that accompanied Maja's developmental path during her clinical work led to new scientific research, in which she described reading in the Croatian language, the prerequisites for reading, and therapeutic procedures that encourage reading. Through her invited lecture, Professor Kelić provided insights into the results of the research conducted and her winding professional journey, which took her from the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences in Zagreb to the position of Deputy Head of the Study Program and, recently, the Deputy Head of the Expert Council for Research and Innovation at the University of Rijeka. In the invited lecture "External Evaluation – Opportunity or Obstacle to Improving the Quality of Educational Inclusion," Sanja Horvatić, Ph.D. presented data from her doctoral thesis on the achievements of students with disabilities and persons with disabilities in the State Matura exams. Based on recent scientific works and analyses conducted on the first State Matura exams, alumna Horvatić discussed the types of adjustments in exam technology in external evaluation, the achievements of students, and their impact on the results of students in Croatian Language, Mathematics, and English at both higher and basic levels. By raising open questions about the achievements of students with disabilities and persons with disabilities in the State Matura exams, alumna Horvatić highlighted the key directions for future research and practice, aiming to improve the quality of external evaluation of student achievements and the ways to ensure and strengthen fairness in education. Sanja Horvatić's professional path, which began as an educator in Zagreb and Slovenia, and as an assistant director of the Republic of Slovenia's Penal Sanctions Implementation Office, led her to work on creating and developing the model for adjusting exam technology at the National Centre for External Evaluation in Education. She then worked as an advisor in the Cabinet of the Minister of Science and Education, Professor Blaženka Divjak, Ph.D., where she participated in the creation, monitoring, and implementation of reform processes in preschool, primary, and secondary education, including coordinating and/or being a member of various committees and working groups for curriculum development, laws, regulations, and action plans in the Republic of Croatia. At the continuation of the Electoral Assembly's work, the President of the Croatian Association of Graduates of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences-AMCA-ERF, Prof. Zrinjka Stančić, Ph.D., presented the program and financial report on the association's work in 2023. The attending members of the Assembly unanimously accepted the reports, commented on the implementation of activities, with a special emphasis on strengthening the



Zrinjka Stančić, Maja Kelić and Sanja Horvatić

visibility of our AMCA and the need for continuous activation of membership. After the dismissal of the existing members of the Presidency and the Supervisory Board of AMCA-ERF, a new election procedure was conducted for the 2024-2027 mandate period. The following were elected to the Presidency of AMCA-ERF: Assistant Professor Blaženka Brozović, Ph.D., President of AMCA-ERF; Prof. Zrinjka Stančić, Ph.D., Vice-President of AMCA-ERF; Assistant Professor Marina Tomazin Olujić, Ph.D., Secretary; Associate Professor Ante Bilić Prčić, Ph.D., Dean, Member; and Andrea Paulik, Member. The following were elected to the Supervisory Board: Assistant Professor Ana Katušić, Ph.D., Master of Science Silvana Bilonić-Milošević, and Master of Science Mara Kovačić, while Dubravka Vajdić, a graduate defectologist, was elected as the Liquidator of the Association.

Fifth International Congress of Students ERFUSS'24

The Fifth International Congress of Students of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation in collaboration, abbreviated as ERFUSS'24, was held from May 24 to 26 at the Borongaj Campus. The Congress was sponsored by the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb, the Student Center in Zagreb, the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Zagreb, the Croatian Chamber of Educational Rehabilitation Professionals, the Croatian Chamber of Social Pedagogues, and the Croatian Speech-Language Pathology Society. Throughout the event, our AMCA-ERF always provides organizational support based on long-standing cooperation with related faculties in Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. The organizing committee of the Fifth International Congress ERFUSS'24 consisted of 16 members, all students from the three academic programs of the Faculty: Educational Rehabilitation, Social Pedagogy, and Speech-Language Pathology. The members of the Organizing Committee were Romana Dominković, Anja Milković, Lara Marčec, Paula Pavlović, Maria-Isabela Pecolaj, Veronika Glavan, Ivan Petrik, Sara Bahun, Vana Marović, Veronika Čekada,



Laura Primec, Petra Biškupec, Ana Martinović, Dora Alilović, Pia Jukica, and Matea Orešković. The Organizing Committee operated through four coordinated teams: the Program Committee, the Logistics Committee, the PR Committee, and the Volunteer Coordination Committee. This year's student Congress ERFUSS'24 had a rich program consisting of 10 plenary lectures, 29 student presentations, 6 student workshops, 2 poster presentations, and the screening of the student film "Hear me out." The film was created at the initiative of the student association Logomotiva and depicts the life stories of four young individuals, each in their own way connected to hearing impairment. The Congress was attended by 88 active and 110 passive participants. Participants of the International Congress ERFUSS 2024 included students from the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, other constituent units of the University of Zagreb, other Croatian universities, as well as international students from Ljubljana, Belgrade, Novi Sad, Tuzla, and Mostar.

Podcast DijaLOG and Podcast ERPOST – Conversations that Change Perspectives

Students of the Master's program in Speech Therapy have launched the DijaLOG podcast, while students of the Master's program in Educational Rehabilitation have created the ERPOST podcast. DijaLOG is the first speech therapy podcast in Croatia and the region, aiming to present speech therapy through the perspective of invited speech therapists from science and practice, across various fields of work. ERPOST – the educational rehabilitation podcast – is the first podcast in Croatia launched with the goal of "promoting the breadth and beauty of the educational-rehabilitation profession, breaking down prejudices and myths about children with developmental difficulties and people with disabilities, and changing the perspective of students, professionals, parents, and all listeners" (words of the authors: Kodba, Štrajbek, Zgurić, 2024). The authors and hosts of each ERPOST, together with invited guests, have discussed current topics in science, education, social welfare, healthcare, professional rehabilitation, organized housing, home care, early intervention, and the civil sector in a realistic and critical manner, following new scientific discoveries, the specifics of different workplaces, key tasks, the competencies of professionals, challenges, and the beautiful moments that educational rehabilitators face in their daily work. The most important information about recorded and upcoming ERPOST episodes is available through social media platforms Facebook and Instagram, while recordings of conversations with eminent alumni from science and practice can be found on the official YouTube and Spotify channels https://www.youtube.com/@ERPOST_podcast/videos.

Zrinjka Stančić and Blaženka Brozović

AMAC – Alumni FER

FER Alumni Awarded 20,000 EUR in Scholarships, and More than 40 Alumni Mentors Provide Support for the Personal Development of Mentees

Initiatives of the Alumni Board

FER and its alumni have been achieving significant results from activities that began with the establishment of the Alumni Board at the Faculty in February 2023 and the implementation of strategic initiatives by the board for the benefit of the alma mater, faculty, students, alumni, and ultimately for the economy and society as a whole. The establishment of the FER Alumni Foundation was announced at that time, with the goal of providing financial assistance to students whose personal financial situations prevent them from fully dedicating themselves to their studies. Additionally, a mentoring program was introduced, focused on connecting students and alumni to provide support and guidance in personal and professional

development, with the aim of achieving long-term success.

20,000 EUR Scholarship for 10 Students from FER (Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing)

The FER Alumni Foundation has been fully established, and through donation collection activities, it has secured financial resources for the awarding of the first scholarships, which students began receiving at the start of the 2024/2025 academic year. Through an open competition method, a total of 10 students were selected based on criteria of lower socio-economic status, and they will receive scholarships over a period of 10 months, with a total amount of 2,000 EUR. The president of the Board of the FER Alumni Foundation,



Igor Strejček and Mladen Pejčković, FERConnect

alumni Igor Strejček (Microblink), expressed great joy at the disbursement of the first scholarships, which began in November: “Our wish is that this scholarship, along with other forms of support from the alumni community, will help the selected students become engineers who, through their work, will ensure prosperity for themselves, their families, and their community. They will contribute to the development of our society and continue to help others who will need assistance in the future.” In line with its mission to create equal opportunities for excellence, the Foundation will focus on ensuring financial sustainability through the development of relationships with donors and the future expansion of scholarships based on excellence criteria, offering scholarships to students throughout their entire study period.

FER Alumni Mentorship Program

The mentorship program is an organized and responsible initiative aimed at strengthening career development opportunities for young engineers within the FER alumni community. The program connects experienced alumni with younger colleagues who need support and guidance in their personal and professional development, facilitated by a new application introduced in April at FERConnect. Two forms of mentorship are planned, each lasting one semester:

short-term situational counseling and continuous developmental mentorship. Some of the categories that mentors and mentees can choose from within the application include: software development, electrical engineering, artificial intelligence and machine learning, startups and entrepreneurship, as well as career counseling and personal development.

Inside the application, mentees have the ability to view mentor profiles, select categories and types of mentorship, and since the start of the program until today, more than 40 FER alumni, established FER alumni with over five years of professional experience, managers, experts, and top professionals in their fields have willingly shared their knowledge and experiences with younger colleagues, alumni, and students of FER. “The alumni mentorship program creates valuable benefits for both mentors and those they work with, and it connects the alumni community in the best possible way. We want those who are mentored through this program to receive support that will help them achieve their successes faster, and ultimately, our goal is to have a technologically advanced Croatia,” says alumna Zlatka Tečec Ribarić, Ph.D. (KONČAR – Institute for Electrical Engineering), member of the FER Alumni Board and leader of the mentorship program.

Dean Šarčević

AMACIZ

The Academic Choir “Vladimir Prelog” - Very Active in 2024

The academic choir “Vladimir Prelog” continued its successful work and concerts in Zagreb and other parts of Croatia this year. At the beginning of the year, on March 8th, the choir performed as part of the 33rd Celebration of Passion Heritage at the Church of St. Cross (Siget). The concert was titled “Music of Christian Africa.” Numerous compositions from Kenya and South Africa were performed in Xhosa, Swahili, and Zulu, all with Christian themes and original musical expression, which received great applause and thanks from the audience. Soon after, on April 20th, the choir participated in the “CroAfro Convention” event held at the Ethnographic

Museum in Zagreb. During this concert, the choir members performed a series of pieces from their repertoire with an African theme (Wana Baraka, Swili Yini, Ukuthula, etc.). Their performance blended beautifully and contributed to this international event. At the end of April (April 27th), the choir performed in Senj as part of the City of Senj’s celebration of St. George’s Day. The concert took place in the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The program included works such as Ave Maria (J. Busto), Glory (S. Rachmaninoff), Lux Aurumque (E. Whitacre), Beatitudes (D. Hristov), Ave Maria (I. Kokot), Nkosi Sikelel’i Afrika (E. Sontonga), Wana Baraka (trad.),



33. Ceremonies of Passion Heritage

Ukuthula (trad.) with soloist Ema Šutej, Ain't That Good News (trad.), Good Evening, My Rose (arr. D. Fio), Water from the Springs (J. Š. Slavenski). For the encore, they performed Alleluia (Limburg). On May 18th, the choir participated in the graduation ceremony of VERN University at the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall, performing the Croatian national anthem "Lijepa Naša," the European Union anthem (Beethoven: Ode to Joy), and the student anthem "Gaudeamus igitur." On June 5th, the choir performed at the Festival of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, held at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, organized by the Palma choir. The festival was charitable, aimed at the restoration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Basilica in Palmotićeve Street in Zagreb, which was damaged in the earthquake. Our choir successfully performed three pieces: Lux Aurumque (E. Whitacre), Beatitudes (D. Hristov), and Water from the Springs (arr. J. Š. Slavenski). The concert was highly praised by the expert committee of the City of Zagreb as part of the Amateur Choir Festival. A part of the text from the expert committee reads: *"The voice placement and singing technique are excellently shaped, and the voices are pure, allowing for repertoire development. They performed the selected program harmoniously and motivated, in a balanced and thoughtful sound, and I have no significant complaints, only praises... All musical parameters were reflected in the best possible way in the choir's interpretation, and I sincerely thank them for the wonderful performance."* At the end of June (June 29th), our choir participated in a workshop and joint concert with guests from the USA, the Orange County Women's Chorus from California. The workshop was held at the Zagreb Academy of Music Hall, where the choirs, led by conductors E. Rubenstein and Iva Juras, demonstrated methods of working on new repertoire, and then jointly performed two pieces. In the evening, at 8 p.m., the choirs held a joint concert at the Pavilion in Zrinjevac, where a large audience gathered. Our choir opened the concert with the traditional South African song "Swilo Yini Makhanana." Before the summer

break, there was a change in the choir's leadership. After Branko Kobas, Božidarka (Boba) Vidović Pupiće took over the role of choir director. We thank Branko for his years of successful leadership and wish Boba to lead the choir with new energy in the coming period. After the summer break, the choir began intensive preparations for their performance in Preko, on the island of Ugljan, where they performed on October 6th at the Donor Concert for the restoration of the "old church." The beautiful ambiance and the full church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Preko inspired the performance of works by J. Busto, A. Bruckner, S. Rachmaninoff, S. Kischner, J. Štolcer-Slavenski, I. Hladnik, D. Fio, under the impeccable leadership of artistic director Iva Juras. The concert was joined by the "Nostalgija" vocal group, who performed several excellent Dalmatian songs.

At the end of October (21st), the choir participated in the celebration of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology (FKIT) Day and the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Chemical Engineering study program in Zagreb. The choir also took part in Zuber-Fest in Varaždin (October 9, 2024), organized in honor of the great music educator Prof. Marijan Zuber (1913–2008), where five choirs from Varaždin and Zagreb performed. The choir also performed at the concert titled *Lux & Pax – Praying for Peace* held at the Basilica of St. Anthony, Sveti Duh, on Tuesday, November 13. Works from both sacred and secular repertoires were performed. All the choir's performances were conducted by its permanent artistic director and conductor, Maestro Iva Juras. The choir's final performance in 2024 took place during Advent at FKIT, an event organized by FKIT, the Croatian Kenyan Society (HKD), and the Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers and Technologists (HDKI), where it performed a selection of well-known Christmas carols. The choir is preparing a new program for 2025, which will be reported in the next issue of *Glasnik*.

Krunoslav Kovačević



Gathering of FOI alumni

AMAC FOI Marking 15 Years of the AMAC FOI Alumni Association

The Faculty of Organization and Informatics of the University of Zagreb, on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, proudly marked the 15th anniversary of the founding of its alumni association, AMAC FOI, at the Faculty's premises in Varaždin. At the beginning of 2024, a new presidency was elected, and as a result, a new website, a new logo for the association, and new plans for activities and gatherings of FOI alumni were created. This significant anniversary was celebrated under the banner of FOI Alumni Day, the central event that brought many former students, faculty members, and friends of the Faculty back to Varaždin. It was an ideal opportunity for networking and exchanging experiences, with a thematic roundtable featuring former students with exceptional careers in ICT. The attendees were welcomed, or rather wished a pleasant return to FOI, by the Dean, Prof. Marina Kláčmer Čalopa, Ph.D. After many years, the FOI alumni gathered again at their alma mater for a roundtable discussion titled "Developing Skills for the Future: Advice from FOI Alumni for the Era Ahead." Distinguished members of the business community in the ICT sector reflected on their rich experiences, recalling their university days, and discussed the challenges and opportunities brought by digital transformation in the professional world. The following individuals shared their career experiences: Jelena Škalec, Data & AI Technical Sales at IBM Croatia, Klaudia Teković, Business Area Director - ERP & Custom Development at Omega Software, Marina Mišetić, Technical Account Manager at Asseco South Eastern Europe, Alen Delić, Chief Information Security Officer at SpotMe, Goran Kovačević, Vice President of Business Development at Infinum, and

Mario Mrljić, CTO & Board Member at NEOS. After the roundtable, which was moderated by the president of the alumni association, Prof. Katarina Tomičić-Pupek, Ph.D., informal networking and socializing followed in the Info Chill Zone (Rupa), where the alumni reminisced about their student days, and many established new contacts and exchanged intergenerational experiences.

The Gathering of FOI Alumni as Part of the Career Week at FOI

After the inspiring Career Week held at the Faculty of Organization and Informatics in October, members and friends of the AMAC FOI association gathered for the long-awaited alumni meet-up. This time, the location was at the Saperlot brewery, not far from Varaždin, which provided the perfect ambiance for relaxation and informal socializing. The gathering offered an opportunity for former FOI students to exchange experiences, reconnect old friendships, and discuss current challenges in their careers. With a great atmosphere and craft beer, the members of the AMAC FOI association discussed future plans for the association, connecting students and alumni, as well as opportunities for joint projects and collaborations. This gathering was another step toward strengthening the community of FOI alumni, and everyone agreed that such meetups should be held more often to encourage the exchange of knowledge and experiences and to support the career paths of all members.

Romina Kelemen



Participants of the Panel

THE ALUMNI OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN ZAGREB A Panel Discussion “With Alumni in the Seven at Seven”

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zagreb, a series of panel discussions titled “With Alumni in the Seven at Seven” was launched. The panels are held in the historic Hall VII, also known as “The Seven,” coordinated by Prof. Ivana Vidović Bolt, Ph.D., who also came up with the name. Each meeting brings together alumni from different study programs to share their professional knowledge and experiences with the audience. After successful discussions featuring alumni from the fields of Croatian studies, Romance languages, and sociology, on October 16, 2024, the alumni from the Department of Information and Communication Sciences took their turn, with a special focus on those who completed studies in library science and now work as information professionals and librarians in various information institutions. The conversation, featuring one male librarian and five female librarians, all alumni of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and members of the Zagreb Library Society (ZKD) and the working group “New Information Professionals” (NIS), was moderated by Monika Batur, an assistant at the Department of Library Science, Department of Information and Communication Sciences.

The panel included active young librarians who shared their experiences of academic life and career paths. Mihael Bily from the Sesevete Library, the current president of the Croatian Library Association (ZKD), described his journey from student to librarian, emphasizing the importance of involvement in projects promoting librarianship, such as working on social media or hosting the #ZKDruskanje podcast. Lorena Martinić from the Library of the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb informed the attendees about her experience studying librarianship and her first steps in a library environment through demonstrator jobs at the faculty library. Martina Žugaj from the Center for Scientific Information at the Ruđer Bošković

Institute shared how she combined studies in English and librarianship, initially starting her career as an English language professor and later transitioning to a special library within Croatia’s largest scientific research institute. Lucija Prusac from the City Library of Zagreb described her experience studying part-time librarianship at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and representing the “New Information Professionals” working group at the World Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations in Dublin. Ema Subotičanec from the Medveščak Library spoke about how, despite challenges, she managed to overcome obstacles and ease the transition from studying to employment through volunteer work and networking within the profession, considering her perspective as a person with a disability. Eva Vitković from the August Cesarec Library in Ravnice highlighted how additional activities during her studies, including working on the project “Citizen Science in Social and Humanities Research,” significantly helped, and continues to help, her professional development. Finally, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Associate Professor Domagoj Tončinić, Ph.D. deepened the conversation by addressing each of the alumni, highlighting their achievements and emphasizing their inspiring nature and the importance of sharing personal experiences and alumni networking. This meeting emphasized the importance of the library profession in contemporary society, as a regulated profession in the Republic of Croatia, promoted relevant library competencies and generic skills gained in the librarianship program at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, and created space for young alumni to discuss their study experiences and activities, as well as some of their first and recent, but significant, career steps and professional achievements.

Monika Batur



Panelists at the Autumn Day

AMAC-GFV

News from the Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering

We bring you exciting news from the Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering – events filled with inspiring lectures, intriguing panels, and general knowledge quizzes! AMAC-GFV, together with the Student Council and the Faculty Administration, is organizing panel discussions on current topics, accompanied by a general knowledge quiz. Below, we provide brief descriptions of past events and invite you to follow us on social media to join us for future events.

Summer Day at GFV – September 25, 2024

The summer day was marked by an incredible success story of our colleagues from FER, who inspired us with their victory at an international robotics competition. After that, an interesting panel discussion was held, and to wrap up the day, we all relaxed with the faculty's first general knowledge quiz. We were especially happy that students who had defended their thesis and final projects that day joined us, which further enriched the atmosphere.

Warming up at GFV – October 23, 2024

At the event "Warming up at GFV," we were joined by the ambassadors of France and Finland, whose

opening speeches initiated a discussion on the topic "The Return of Nuclear Energy – Panacea or Illusion." The panel brought together experts from various fields of energy, offering different perspectives on the role of nuclear energy in the future and the disposal of nuclear waste. In a more relaxed atmosphere, the evening concluded with the second edition of the "QuizDATA" quiz, where participants tested their knowledge and competed against each other.

Autumn Day at GFV - October 23, 2024

An autumn day brought us another highly engaging panel discussion, "Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Science, vol. 1," where experts discussed the challenges and benefits of applying AI in education and research. The atmosphere was further energized by the third "QuizDATA" quiz, bringing together teams of colleagues, friends, and trivia enthusiasts. We proudly conclude these events, grateful to everyone who joined and contributed to making the Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering a hub of knowledge, idea exchange, and fun. We look forward to future gatherings and continued connections through similar events!

Lucija Plantak

DBS-KBF / AMAC-FTC

Day of the Club of Former Students of the Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb - Stepinčevo 2024

On Thursday, February 8, 2024, starting at 5:00 PM, the Club of Former Students of the Catholic Faculty of Theology (KBF) of the University of Zagreb / Almae Matris Alumnae et Alumni Croaticae - Facultas Theologiae Catholicae (DBS-KBF/AMAC-FTC) celebrated its Day – Stepinčevo 2024. The celebration began with a Eucharistic celebration at St. Martin's Church, led by

the Dean of KBF, University of Zagreb, and member of the Club, Prof. Josip Šimunović, Ph.D. The homily, inspired by the example of Blessed Alojzije Stepinac, was delivered by Rev. Vlado Razum, the spiritual guide of the Club. The liturgical singing was led by the mixed choir of the Institute for Church Music of KBF, University of Zagreb, conducted by Prof. Katarina



Participants of My Alumni Stories

Koprek, Ph.D. The festive celebration continued in the premises of KBF, University of Zagreb, with an academic ceremony that began with the Club's anthem "Slava Ti, Bože naš" (Glory to You, Our God). At the start of the academic ceremony, the president of the Club, Prof. Tonči Matulić, Ph.D. welcomed all attendees on his behalf, on behalf of the Administrative and Supervisory Boards, and all regular members of the Club. Following him, the host and Dean of KBF, University of Zagreb, Prof. Josip Šimunović, Ph.D. and the president of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D. delivered greeting speeches. As part of the central segment of the academic ceremony, titled "My Alumni Story," expertly led by the Club's secretary, Associate Prof. Vanda Kraft Soić, Ph.D., three successful former students of KBF, University of Zagreb, and members of the Club participated: Mrs. Maja Petranović, M.A. in Theology, Assistant Editor-in-Chief of "Kršćanska sadašnjost" and Editor-in-Chief of the Christian family magazine Kana, Mr. Matej Petranović, M.A. in Theology, Senior Expert Advisor for Policies Aligning Education with Labor Market Needs at the Ministry of Labor, Pension System, Family, and Social Policy, and Mrs. Gordana Barudžija, Ph.D., Senior Advisor for Religious Education at the Agency for Education and Training in the Department of Preschool Education and Primary Education – Department for Subject Teaching. Through a pleasant and cordial conversation, the mentioned alumni of the Catholic Faculty of Theology

at the University of Zagreb shared with the attendees their student, life, and professional stories. The reasons for choosing to study at the Catholic Faculty of Theology at the University of Zagreb, their student experience, finding permanent employment, continuous professional development, and their professional achievements as recognized and well-known figures in their respective fields, provided a beautiful and inspiring testimony about the inseparable connection between their alma mater and their personal, academic, and professional lives. Their discussions and reflections left all listeners with a convincing and admirable testimony about how the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zagreb has shaped their personal lives and professional careers, and how it has remained a lasting link and leitmotif of their personal and professional endeavors. At the end of the academic ceremony, words of thanks were addressed to all those present and to those responsible for organizing the celebration of the Day of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zagreb by the president, Professor Matulić, and after that, the academic anthem "Gaudeamus" was sung. The ceremonial celebration continued with a friendly gathering of all attendees, accompanied by a reception in the hall of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences building. Deus lux mea est!

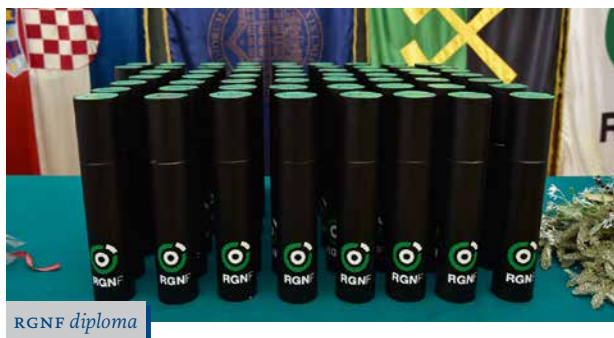
Vanda Kraft Soić and Tonči Matulić

AMAC-RGNF

A New Leadership Elected at the Croatian Association of Graduates of the Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Zagreb (AMAC-RGNF)

An Election Assembly of the Croatian Association of Graduates of the Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering of the University of Zagreb (AMAC-RGNF) was held. At the assembly, Zoran Čogelja, Ph.D. was elected as the president of the Association, and he is the Director of Permit Issuance in Oil and Gas Exploration and Production at INA d.d. Professor Vladislav Brkić, the current dean of the faculty, was elected as the

vice president. The Presidency consists of 17 members, and the Supervisory Board has 3 members. All were elected for the term 2024–2028. The reactivation of the Association is significant as RGNF celebrates 60 years of independent work within the University of Zagreb this year. At the Assembly, the Strategy for the Work of the AMAC-RGNF Association in the upcoming period was adopted.



The strategy includes:


1. **Connecting Alumni and Professionals**
The main goal is to create a strong network of alumni and friends of the Faculty, who will exchange knowledge, experiences, and contacts through mutual cooperation. The Association will facilitate professional networking through specialized gatherings, conferences, workshops, and informal events.
2. **Collaboration with the Faculty**
AMAC-RGNF works closely with the Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering in the development of new educational programs and research projects in line with the needs of the economy. The Association acts as a bridge between the academic community and the industry, assisting the Faculty in creating relevant curricula and promoting innovations.
3. **Support for Students**
One of the priorities of the Association is providing support to students through mentoring and opportunities for internships. Through AMAC-RGNF, students will be able to make direct contacts with successful professionals, which will aid in their professional development and employment.
4. **Promotion of the Profession**
The Association actively works on promoting the fields of mining, geology, and petroleum engineering to the public, raising awareness of the importance of these disciplines for the economy and society as a whole.
5. **Preservation of Tradition and Reputation of the Faculty**
The Association advocates for the preservation of the rich tradition of the Faculty of Mining, Geology,

12. MEĐUNARODNA KONFERENCIJA NAFTA, PLIN, GEOTERME, VODIK - ODRŽIVA ENERGETSKA BUDUĆNOST


ŠIBENIK, 7. - 9. listopada 2024.

GLAVNI ORGANIZATOR:
HRVATSKA UDRUGA NAFTNIH INŽENJERA I GEOLOGA

AMAC-RGNF
HRVATSKA UDRUGA DIPLOMIRANIH
STUDENATA RUDARSKO-GEOLOŠKO-NAFTNOG
FAKULTETA SVEUČILIŠTA U ZAGREBU



SKENIRAJ I PRISTUPI!




and Petroleum Engineering, and the promotion of its achievements and reputation at the national and international levels.

6. **Innovation and Adaptation to New Technologies**
AMAC-RGNF emphasizes encouraging innovation within the profession and adapting to new technologies and sustainable practices. The members of the Association promote research on new approaches in mining, geology, and the petroleum industry, enhancing the professional community with their ideas and experiences.

The first opportunity for promoting the Association and its strategy, as well as networking, was participation at the 12th International Conference on Oil, Gas, Geothermal Energy, and Hydrogen, held from October 7 to 9, 2024, in Šibenik.

Vladislav Brkić

AMA SFZG

Meetings of the Alumni of the School of Dental Medicine – Generations Enrolled in 1988 and 1989

Two generations of alumni gathered at the School of Dental Medicine. The driving force of the meeting were the professors from the Department of Endodontics and Restorative Dentistry. Professor Silvana Jukić-Krmek, Ph.D. gathered the class of 1988, while Professor Ivana Miletić, Ph.D. gathered the class of 1989. We share their testimonies and emotions from these meetings.

The Meeting of the Alumni Class of '88

The 1988/1989 generation of the School of Dental Medicine met for the second time this June, in the same lecture hall where their journey into the world of professional development began more than 30 years ago. The laughter and chatter that erupted as soon as the generation gathered in the Faculty's



Generation '88



Generation '89

courtyard confirmed that these were the same girls and boys who once looked to the future with many questions and uncertainties. Today, they are mature individuals, still cheerful and playful like before, but satisfied and proud of their success in achieving their desired careers. During a one-hour gathering in the lecture hall with champagne and a celebratory cake, memories of student days began to flood back, fresh and vivid, sparked by the projection of shared photographs from their studying days. It was an exciting time of youthful maturity, but also years filled with challenges, war, and hardship. Clinical exercises were interrupted due to air raid sirens, and together with patients, they would go to the cafeteria, which then served as shelter. Traveling home during the holidays was difficult for many due to disrupted transportation connections. However, it was also a time for studying, taking exams, going out, socializing, laughter, and joy, seasoned with stories worth retelling, just as youth should be. After so many years, we can proudly say that despite the difficulties, we managed to fulfill our youthful dreams, largely thanks to our teachers and professors at the School of Dental Medicine, who selflessly passed on their knowledge and life experience to younger generations. Some

colleagues and professors are no longer with us, but in our hearts, there are warm memories of the beautiful moments we shared. The gathering was greeted by Professor Hrvoje Brkić, Ph.D. on behalf of the Alumni Association of the School of Dental Medicine, and Professor Marin Vodanović, Ph.D. on behalf of the Faculty's administration. The event was honored by our teachers, retired professors from the Faculty, Professor Jozo Šutalo and Professor Gordana Cerjan Letica, who addressed their former students with warm words. The gathering continued outside the Faculty building late into the night, with great music and lots of dancing. The great atmosphere and emotions inspired the planning of the next meeting.

Generation '89 at the Crossroads of Memory and the Future

The corridors of the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Zagreb once again vibrated with energy and nostalgia. Gundulićeva 5 turned into a place for a reunion of the generation of students enrolled in 1989. On April 19th, 59 former students gathered to reconnect and reminisce about the beautiful, distant days spent at the faculty. Who would have thought that three and a half decades had passed? Over the years, the

world has drastically changed - walls have fallen and risen, technology has advanced beyond imagination, and our generations now view dental medicine (and the world) with eyes we once considered futuristic. In meetings like these, the years we normally count seem like mere footnotes in the stories of our lives, which have developed in countless directions – from building families and homes to constructing careers in different corners of the world. Every path we chose added layers of experiences that shaped who we are today. However, when paths cross again, all those diverse, past experiences temporarily quiet down. In those moments, we return to our roots, where our life stories intertwine again, reminding us of the strength of friendships built on shared dreams and hopes. Time has softened every sharp edge of authority that once

belonged to our professors, leaving space for warmer, more personal interactions. We laughed together, occasionally marveling at how once-strict authorities could turn into close colleagues and mentors with whom we now exchange life wisdom. We thank our retired professors Prof. Jozo Šutalo, Ph.D., Prof. Josip Pandurić, Ph.D., and Prof. Goranka Prpić-Mehičić, Ph.D., as well as the Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, Prof. Zrinka Tarle, Ph.D., and Prof. Hrvoje Brkić, Ph.D., who graced this event with their presence. While everyday life continues its usual course, this day remains recorded as a testament to the fact that true connections endure despite all the challenges that time presents before each of us.

Silvana Jukić Krmek and Ivana Miletić

AMAC-UFZG

News from the Faculty of Teacher Education and AMAC-UFZG

AMAC-UFZG's Electoral Assembly

The Electoral Assembly of the Association of Graduates and Friends of the Faculty of Teacher Education in Zagreb (AMAC-UFZG) was held on May 14, 2024, at DV Trnsko, Žarka Dolinara 11. During the electoral assembly, the following members of the Association's bodies were elected for the term from 2024 to 2028: President: Martina Kolar Billege; Vice-President: Alena Letina; Treasurer: Željka Knežević; Presidency: Katarina Šeravić Lovrak; Morana Bertol; Mara Kolar; Ivana Milković; Honorary Court: Ante Bežen; Vesna Budinski; Sanja Lovrić Kralj; Ines Vodanović; Željka Zagorac; Supervisory Board: Marko Gregurić; Ana Prohaska Žnidarić; Mirjana Marinčević; Secretary: Mara Kolar. A new Statute was adopted, and changes were recorded in the Register of Associations on July 26, 2024. As part of the assembly, a round table discussion was held on the topic of Competencies for the Next Level in Education. The conclusion highlighted the need to discuss the (dis)connection of educational institutions and to establish vertical and horizontal connections between these institutions in order to create opportunities for achieving educational goals in accordance with educational policy. The following participated in the round table: Josipa Kruneš, M.A. in Preschool Education, mentor educator, and Morana Bertol, M.A. in Preschool Education, mentor educator, DV Trnsko, "Readiness for School"; Željka Zagorac, M.A. in Primary Education, senior advisor, OŠ Borovje, "What Competencies Do We Expect in Primary Education"; Associate Prof. Vesna Budinski, Ph.D., UFZG, "What Competencies Do We Equip Future Teachers and Educators With".

The New Management Board of the Faculty of Teacher Education

On Monday, October 7, 2024, a ceremonial academy was held at the University of Zagreb to mark the



Rector and new Leadership of the Faculty of Teacher Education

Day of the Faculty of Teacher Education and World Teachers' Day. On this occasion, the new administration was inaugurated, headed by Dean, Prof. Blaženka Filipan Žignić, Ph.D. Along with the Dean, the new administration includes Assoc. Prof. Adrijana Višnjić Jevtić, Ph.D., Vice Dean for Education and Students, Asst. Prof. Tamara Jurkić Sviben, Ph.D., Vice Dean for Science, Art, and International Cooperation, Assoc. Prof. Martina Kolar Billege, Ph.D., Vice Dean for Business and Development of the Faculty of Teacher Education, Asst. Prof. Hrvoje Šlezak, Ph.D., Vice Dean for Business, Study, and Students at the Čakovec branch, and Prof. Marko Badrić, Ph.D., Vice Dean for Business, Study, and Students at the Petrinja branch. In her ceremonial address, the Dean emphasized three priorities on which she will focus special attention during her term. These are: strengthening the quality of education by innovating and improving study programs, encouraging scientific-research work, and intensifying cooperation and unity within and outside the Faculty of Teacher Education.

Martina Kolar Billege



The Alumni Celebrated 40 Years of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences

Forty years of existence of the Faculty may seem like a short time, or it may seem much longer. If we view this period in the context of our University, which this year started its 356th academic year, and where the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences is one of the youngest faculties, it may appear to be quite short. However, if we look at our 40 years of existence and systematic work through 40 generations of students, over 10,000 of whom studied and graduated from our Faculty, then it is a long period in which the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences has made an important contribution to education, research, society, and the economy as a whole. Each of these 40 generations of students, together with their professors, brought new knowledge, enthusiasm, or ideas, shaping not only our Faculty but also the transport profession in Croatia and beyond. If we return to the year 1984 when the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences was founded, we go back to a time when transport science and the profession introduced the obligation to wear seat belts and the first ABS systems in cars, the French TGV laid the foundations for the development of high-speed railways worldwide, air traffic, thanks to market deregulation, became accessible for travel even to those who thought they would never travel by plane due to high prices, and maritime transport and logistics were intensively adapting to container transport. At the same time, the first commercial mobile phones appeared, beginning a new era in information and

communication transport. Much has changed since then. Today, transport and mobility are focused on autonomous vehicles. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science have become the standard in transport, logistics, and aeronautical processes, while mobile communication technologies have reached the fifth and even the sixth generation. Throughout all these changes, the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences has continuously and actively participated, evolving over these 40 years from a small faculty into a respectable scientific and higher education institution. Our professors and researchers today participate in the development of mobility based on driverless vehicles, improving road safety, or air traffic management with the help of artificial intelligence, creating the railways of the future, automating warehouses, and creating communication solutions based on quantum technology. In all these activities, our students are also involved, educating themselves for various future jobs in the fields of transport, logistics, and aeronautics. Our numerous alumni are a guarantee and an additional boost for the continued work and development of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, where current and future students will gain up-to-date knowledge in the fields of transport, logistics, and aeronautics, while further nurturing the traditions and alumni values of their Faculty and University.

Marko Šoštarić and Mario Šafran



The Grand opening of the Center

The Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology - Franjo Klarić Center

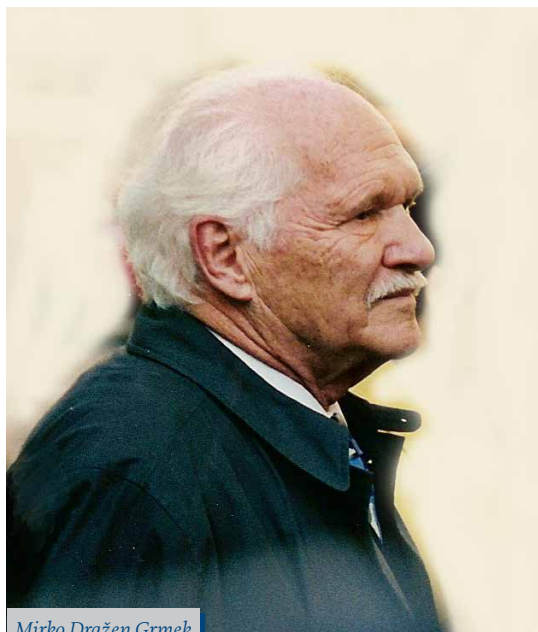
A significant event for the Croatian food industry, particularly in the fields of bakery, pastry, and confectionery, occurred on May 7, 2024, in Zagreb when the Franjo Klarić Center - Center for Research, Development, and Analysis of Sourdough and Other Raw Materials for Bakery and Pastry - was founded. The Center is the result of many years of successful collaboration between the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, the company TIM ZIP, the Richemont Club Croatia, and the Ivan Bulić Foundation. The main mission of the Center is the research and gathering of new scientific knowledge, as well as the improvement of knowledge on sourdough and the technologies of its production, preservation, and application in various food products. An important area of the Center's activities will also be the study of other raw materials for bakery and pastry, continuous education of bakers, pastry chefs, food technologists, as well as professors at vocational schools and higher education institutions, all with the goal of implementing new knowledge in the food industry. Special emphasis is placed on the scientific collaboration between the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology and the Franjo Klarić Center, as well as on joint work on research projects. The Center is named after the prominent expert in the field of bakery, Franjo Klarić, M.Eng. whose long-standing

work and dedication left an indelible mark on the Croatian bakery industry. His passion for knowledge and innovation was the driving force behind the establishment of this Center, which will continue his work and promote the highest standards in the production of bakery and pastry products. The Center is located in the premises of the company TIM ZIP, and its official opening took place on September 11, 2024. On that day, Franjo Klarić, M.Eng., along with the founders and collaborators of the Center, symbolically cut the ribbon and officially marked the beginning of the Center's operations, which includes a newly equipped chemical-microbiological laboratory, a test and presentation bakery, as well as classrooms and seminar rooms. The establishment of the Franjo Klarić Center represents an important step in the development of the Croatian food industry. Through its activities, Franjo Klarić Center aims to ensure the progress of the bakery, pastry, and confectionery professions in these regions and contribute to the competitiveness of Croatian products in the global market.

Nikolina Čukelj Mustać

The centenary of the birth of Mirko Dražen Grmek

The year 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mirko D. Grmek (1924 - 2000), a physician and renowned historian of medicine and biomedical sciences. "A Croatian by birth, a Frenchman by adoption, a European at heart, an internationally recognized historian of biomedical sciences, and endowed with erudition far beyond the scope of his discipline, Mirko Dražen Grmek will prove that even in the second half of the twentieth century, it is possible to be simultaneously a Renaissance man, an enlightened and lucid humanist, and a dedicated intellectual. It is not easy to grasp the extent of this great figure of Western thought, as his skills – scientific, medical, historical, literary, philological – testify to an extraordinary breadth of vision." * Mirko Dražen Grmek was not only a great scientist of worldwide renown, but he also dedicated his entire life to being an engaged citizen and a great Croatian patriot. A top intellectual, he was interested in various scientific and cultural topics. At the age of 18, he joined the French Resistance movement and served as its liaison officer with the Allies in Savoy. After returning to Zagreb, he enrolled in medical studies at the University of Zagreb. After practicing and teaching medicine, he devoted himself to researching its history. He founded the Institute for the History of Medicine in Zagreb. He moved to Paris in 1963, where the Collège de France entrusted him with the classification of Claude Bernard's notes, for which he became an internationally recognized expert. A naturalized French citizen in 1967, he took on the monumental task of writing *The History of Medical Thought in the West*, for which he assembled an international interdisciplinary team of physicians and biologists, historians and sociologists, philologists and philosophers. He completed his university career at the Sorbonne as the director of studies at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, where, from 1972, he served as the director of the history of biological and medical sciences, and he also collaborated with the CNRS (Centre national de la recherche scientifique – National Centre for Scientific Research). Mirko Dražen Grmek remained a prolific scientific writer until the end of his life and was actively involved in defending the interests of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina from the very beginning of the Homeland War. As one of the founders of the International Croatian Initiative, which gathers about 20 prominent intellectuals, scientists, and artists



Mirko Dražen Grmek

in Europe and North America, Mirko Dražen Grmek participated in its work. Professor Mirko D. Grmek was also one of the founders and initiators of the gathering of the Croatian diaspora in France. During the war, he was elected as the first president of the AMCA (Almae Matris Croaticae Alumni) association, founded in Paris in 1991. During his time in the association, he published numerous articles about events and the Homeland War in Croatia; participated in radio and television programs regarding the crisis and the situation in Croatia and former Yugoslavia; met with scientists and politicians and gave numerous conferences about the difficult

situation in Croatia and its fight for independence. Prof. Grmek was also one of the founders and initiators of the gathering of the Croatian diaspora in France, which in 1990 established the Representative Council of Croatian Institutions and Communities in France (CCRICF). The initiatives and work of the members of these two associations strongly influenced French public opinion, especially among intellectual circles, toward changing views and correcting stereotypes about Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prof. Grmek also became involved in and mobilized for the creation of the French-Croatian Cultural Center, demonstrating his desire for reconciliation between his country of birth and his country of adoption. On the occasion of this centenary, in October 2024, the École Pratique des Hautes Études and IMEC (Centre national de la recherche scientifique – French National Centre for Scientific Research), where his archive is stored, in collaboration with the Institute for the History of Medicine in Zagreb and under the patronage of the International Academy for the History of Science, organized a colloquium at the Sorbonne dedicated to this exceptional scientific work. With the help of the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia, the AMCA-Paris association organized an evening in late November to honor Professor Grmek at the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia, attended by his wife, writer Luisa L. Lambrich, Marc Gjidare, and Neven Šimac.

Lamia Ruzdžić-Barbier

* Louise L. Lambrichs, Pariz, October 2011
- <https://www.amcaparis.org/amca-paris/qui-sommes-nous?view=article&id=4:mirko-drazen-grmek&catid=29:amca-paris>



Address of the Honorary Doctor

Prof. Hrvoje Tkalčić, Ph.D. - Honorary Doctor of the University of Zagreb

At the University of Zagreb, on Monday, December 2, 2024, a ceremony was held for the awarding of an honorary doctorate to the alumnus of our University, Professor Hrvoje Tkalčić, Ph.D., full professor and head of the Department of Geophysics at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. The Rector of the University of Zagreb, Professor Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. awarded the honorary doctorate to Professor Tkalčić for his contributions to the development of scientific research at the University of Zagreb in the field of natural sciences, the internationalization of the University of Zagreb, and its opening to the global space of higher education. The ceremony began with an introductory speech by the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Professor Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., who highlighted not only Professor Tkalčić's exceptional contribution to the development of scientific research at the University of Zagreb, especially in the fields of geophysics and seismology, but also his continuous collaboration with the University of Zagreb, as well as his promotion of the University in the global higher education space.

This was followed by a speech by the promoter, Academician Mirko Orlić, who presented Professor Tkalčić's scientific contributions, his achievements in teaching and professional activities, awards won, positions in national and international scientific societies, his extensive work in the popularization of science, and his collaboration with the Republic of Croatia, the University of Zagreb, and the Faculty of Science.

After the Rector declared Professor Hrvoje Tkalčić an honorary Doctor of the University of Zagreb, Professor Tkalčić signed the honorary doctorate book and addressed the guests. "This honorary doctorate is not only recognition of my achievements but also confirmation of the joint efforts of my colleagues, Ph.D. students, and institutions that have supported me throughout my academic journey. I am deeply grateful for the long-standing collaboration, mentorship, and support from

colleagues across all continents, which has been the cornerstone of my scientific work," said Professor Tkalčić. In his speech, he specifically talked about the future of seismology and other branches of geophysics and particularly focused on the field of seismology and geophysics in Croatia. Thanking everyone who supported him on his academic path, Professor Tkalčić also spoke about the important legacy of Andrija Mohorovičić, a pioneer of meteorology and seismology, and one of the founders of this scientific field worldwide. His entire scientific work, dedication to collecting both meteorological and seismological data, and his revolutionary seismological research and discovery of the discontinuity between the Earth's crust and mantle, conducted in Croatia, laid the foundations for future generations. As stated in the Report of the Expert Committee for the award of the honorary doctorate, Professor Hrvoje Tkalčić is the most distinguished living seismologist of Croatian descent. He earned his enviable international status through innovative research of the Earth's interior, from the crust and mantle to the inner core, which until recently was relatively poorly understood. Today, he is undoubtedly at the top of the leading authorities on physics of the Earth's core. He is a full professor and head of the Department of Geophysics at the Research School of Earth Sciences at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.

Counseling Center for Students

With the beginning of the new academic year, the University of Zagreb has launched the Student Counseling Center. The establishment of the Counseling Center coincides with World Mental Health Day. The University of Zagreb's Student Counseling Center opened its doors on October 1, 2024, with the aim of providing support to students dealing with emotional difficulties and mental health issues and helping them achieve their academic and life goals. The Counseling Center operates within the University of Zagreb, in the building of the Regional



Team of Psychologists

Centre for the Development of Entrepreneurial Competencies for Southeast Europe – SEECEL, 4th floor, Radoslava Cimermana 88, Zagreb, and is open to students every weekday from 8 AM to 8 PM. All services at the Counseling Center are completely free, and students can reach out without a referral via phone at 01/4698 100 or by email at savjetovaliste@unizg.hr. The Counseling Center is open to help students with a variety of emotional issues and problems, with some of the most common like stress, anxiety, sleep issues, depression, and risky behaviors. More information about the University of Zagreb's Student Counseling Center is available at <https://www.unizg.hr/studiji-i-studiranje/podrska-studentima/savjetovaliste-za-studente/>.

The Media Project “Akademski list”

The media project of the University of Zagreb and the first issue of the “Akademski list” were presented on April 30, 2024, at the University of Zagreb. The project was introduced by the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., Vice-Rector for Organization, Infrastructure Development, and Human Resources, Prof. Tibor Pentek, Ph.D., and the editor-in-chief of the Academic List, Petar Bilobrk, Ph.D. The goal of launching the “Akademski list” is to establish a high-quality communication platform for the most effective presentation of academic achievements and knowledge to the broadest audience. “Akademski list” is the first part of the new media project, and in addition to it, a new portal “akademski.hr” and the “Akademski Podcast” have been established to follow not only traditional media but also modern communication methods, ensuring that research, ideas, and achievements of the University of Zagreb's faculties, their professors, and students are presented in the right way.

The Faculty of Health Studies as a New Component of the University

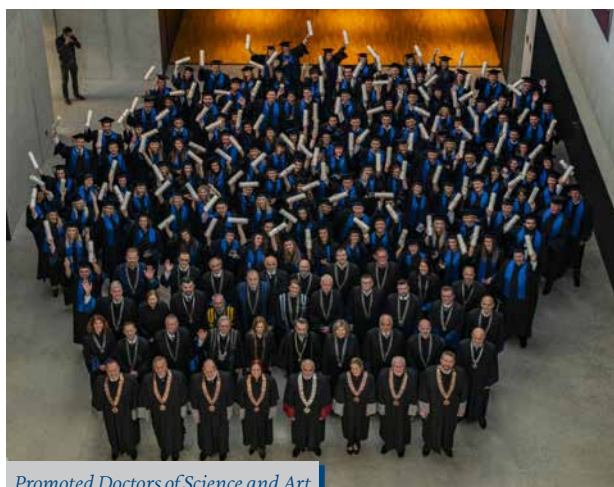
The Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., and the Dean of the University of

Applied Health Sciences Zagreb (zvu), Prof. Krešimir Rotim, Ph.D., signed an Agreement on October 4, 2024, which regulates the relationship between the two institutions in the process of the zvu's affiliation with the University of Zagreb. Based on the Agreement, the process of establishing the Faculty of Health Studies as the 35th constituent unit of the University of Zagreb is about to begin. The Agreement was made based on a decision by the Senate of the University of Zagreb from June of this year, which unanimously adopted the Report on the justification for the establishment and future structure of the Faculty of Health Studies and supported the process of affiliating the University of Applied Health Sciences Zagreb with the University of Zagreb. With the signed Agreement, the two institutions agreed that the University and zvu will take all necessary actions to ensure that the new Faculty of Health Studies can meet the criteria for the initial accreditation of its study programs and initiate the process with the relevant state authorities.

Ceremonial promotion of Doctors of Science and Art of the University of Zagreb in 2024

Since the last issue of Glasnik, two ceremonial promotions of Doctors of Science and Art from the University of Zagreb were held at the large hall of the Regional Center for the Development of Entrepreneurial Competences for Southeast European countries – SEECEL, on June 8 and October 12, 2024. At the promotions, the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. promoted 551 new Doctors of Science and Art. The new Doctors of Science and Art were greeted with applause by the academic community and the packed audience during this festive occasion. According to protocol, the promotions began with the entrance of doctoral candidates into the hall, after which the rector, vice-rectors, and deans of the University of Zagreb, in a formal procession led by the sergeant-at-arms, arrived at the stage. Congratulating the newly promoted, their mentors, and families, Rector Lakušić expressed that the academic community of the University of Zagreb

is proud and happy that they obtained the academic degree of Doctor of Science and Doctor of Art at the largest, oldest, and most prestigious university in the Republic of Croatia. After the candidates, dressed in ceremonial gowns, recited the oath and were declared Doctors of Science and Art by the rector, they moved the tassels on their academic caps to the right side, symbolically entering a new and higher academic title. The ceremony was followed by the awarding of diplomas and doctoral medals, as well as the inscription of the newly promoted in the “Book of Doctors.” In addition to printed diplomas, the new Doctors of Science and Art also received digital versions in their email inboxes. Both versions of the doctoral diplomas were created simultaneously and include a QR code, with the digital versions also being electronically signed.



Promoted Doctors of Science and Art

The University of Zagreb Once Again Declared the Most Active and Best Sports University in Europe

The University of Zagreb has once again been named the most active sports university in Europe and the best sports university in Europe for 2023! These awards were presented to the University at the General Assembly and the 25th anniversary celebration of the European University Sports Association (EUSA) on November 16, 2024, in Vienna. Over the past year, around 200 athletes and staff members represented the University of Zagreb at EUSA's European Student Championships. The teams competed in 10 (out of 16) organized sporting championships and, against more than 500 universities, won the most medals – 29 in total (6 gold, 9 silver, and 14 bronze). With this recognition, the University of Zagreb has demonstrated the continuity and prosperity of academic sports in the City of Zagreb and the Republic of Croatia. The first award for the best sports university came in 2016, following the results achieved during the European University Games Zagreb – Rijeka. The success was repeated in 2019, when the University of Zagreb not only earned the title of best but also the title of most active based on its performance and results at championships across Europe. After the championships in 2020 and 2021 were canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic,

a fantastic success was achieved in 2022 with the defense of the title. With these results, the University of Zagreb has joined the list of those who successfully represent the Republic of Croatia and serve as its best promoter and ambassador.



Project Presentation

The Project “Kulturni utorak” Ceremoniously Presented at the University of Zagreb

On Tuesday, October 8, 2024, the University of Zagreb presented the “Kulturni utorak” project. This is an initiative launched by the University in collaboration with a network of partners consisting of several cultural institutions in the city of Zagreb, aiming to allow students to follow cultural events and visit cultural institutions one day a week for free. Recognizing the importance of strengthening young people's relationships with art and culture and creating new generations that integrate culture and an active cultural life into their everyday lives, many prominent national and city cultural institutions, including the Croatian Radiotelevision, numerous theaters, museums, cinemas, galleries, and cultural associations, have joined the project. Starting this semester, they will open their doors to students to enrich their student life and encourage creative thinking, art, and culture to become a part of their lives even after graduation. Partners of the University of Zagreb in the “Kulturni utorak” project include: the Croatian National Theatre, the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall, Croatian Radiotelevision, the Zagreb Youth Theatre, the Croatian Composers Society, the Tuškanac Cinema (Croatian Film Association, HFS), the Ethnographic Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museum of the City of Zagreb, the Tiflological Museum, and the Student Center of the University of Zagreb. Associated partners of the project include: the Croatian School Museum, the Association of Croatian Architects (UHA), and the Photography Office Association (UZF). The project also includes galleries from the University of Zagreb: the Šira Gallery and Gallery 112 of the Academy of Fine Arts, the F8 Gallery of the Academy of Dramatic Art, and the Design Studio Gallery of the Faculty of Architecture.



From Left to Right: Ivan Rumenović, Moritz Poremba, Radovan Fuchs, Stjepan Lakušić, Žarko Tušek, Zdenko Tonković, Marko Švaco

Expanded Cooperation Between the University of Zagreb and BMW Group from Munich

On January 31, 2025, a formal agreement was signed at the Regional Center for the Development of Entrepreneurial Competencies for Southeast European countries (SEECCEL) to expand the cooperation between the University of Zagreb and the BMW Group from Munich. The agreement represents an expansion of the existing collaboration between the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture of the University of Zagreb (FSB) and the BMW Group on the project "Intelligent Data Models for Battery Cell Production" (INSIGHT). The project is focused on research and development solutions for optimizing battery cell production using artificial intelligence models, involving professors, Ph.D. students, and students from FSB, as well as researchers from the BMW Group. The goal of the INSIGHT project, along with its extension within the INSIGHT NEXT project, is to reduce costs and improve the quality of battery cell production and recycling. The agreement was signed in the presence of numerous dignitaries by the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., the Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Prof. Zdenko Tonković, Ph.D., and the Head of Battery Cell Recycling Technology Development at the BMW Group, Moritz Poremba. The Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. addressed the gathering: "Policy makers, research funding institutions, the academic community, and the economy must all work together to create a prosperous and competitive society. Universities uniquely contribute to these systems by promoting research and innovation, educating future talents, and encouraging interdisciplinary collaborations. Such agreements, based on cooperation between a large university and a major economic entity, provide a unique opportunity for those working on research and innovation to change and improve our society, based on knowledge. Prosperous and competitive countries can only be built upon research-driven knowledge. "The gathering also featured speeches from the Minister of Science, Education, and Youth, Prof. Dr. Radovan Fuchs, Ph.D., the Minister of Economy, Ante Šušnjar, the State Secretary of the Ministry of the Sea, Transport, and Infrastructure, Žarko Tušek, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Croatia,

H.E. Christian Hellbach, the General Consul of the Republic of Croatia in Munich, Vladimir Duvnjak, the Head of the INSIGHT project at the Battery Cell Competence Center (BCCC) of the BMW Group, Ivan Rumenović, and the Head of the Regional Center of Excellence for Robotic Technologies CRTA and the INSIGHT project leader at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture of the University of Zagreb, Asst. Prof. Marko Švaco, Ph.D. Expanding the cooperation between the University of Zagreb and the BMW Group is an example of exceptionally successful collaboration largely based on the connection between alumni and their alma mater. Ivan Rumenović, the Head of the INSIGHT project at BMW, an alumnus of FSB, said on this occasion: "I am confident that through the joint efforts of teams at the University of Zagreb and BMW, we will achieve all the goals of this project because it involves excellent young people who have received outstanding education at their University and Faculty. I thank everyone involved in the project, and especially my University, my Alma Mater, for the top-quality education I received at the University of Zagreb and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture." Vladimir Duvnjak, the General Consul of the Republic of Croatia in Munich, also an alumnus of FSB, congratulated the signatories of the agreement and said: "This collaboration shows how joint efforts can further enhance cooperation between Croatia and Germany. The University of Zagreb is developing good relations and projects with research institutions and universities in Bavaria and throughout the Federal Republic of Germany, and I believe these good relations will only grow and progress in the coming years." The synergy between alumni and university not only strengthens individuals and institutions but it also strengthens the society as a whole. Joint work and the exchange of experiences are prerequisites for the development of sustainable and innovative educational and research models without which societies cannot be resilient to current global challenges. Therefore, we invite all alumni to collaborate with their University, Faculty, or Academy, as your experiences, knowledge, and passion are an inspiration for future joint projects and new generations of students.

Source: University website

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