



GLASNIK ALUMNI UNIZG

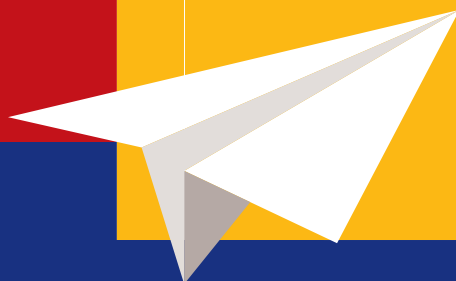
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January 2026

**ALUMNI UNIZG
Held Electoral Assembly**

Alumni Story:
From Belonging to Recognition

**New Visual Identity of the
ALUMNI UNIZG Association**





GLASNIK ALUMNI UNIZG

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

34 (39) / January 2026



*Colleagues,
esteemed alumni, dear friends,
warm greetings to you all!*

Ahead of us lies the next cycle of challenges and opportunities, as well as a new, 34th issue of Glasnik.

Future activities will be planned based on the results achieved during 2025, a comprehensive overview of which is presented on the pages before you.

Together with the Management and the University offices, we have once again brought together academic assemblies, and alumni associations have diligently carried out numerous activities. With a sense of nostalgia, but also great pride, we remembered the distinguished doyens of alumni activities at our University.

We invite you to continue, together, to promote the values of our University through the application of the alumni philosophy — more and stronger!

Enjoy reading the ever-inspiring articles of Glasnik, with the shared commitment of all of us to be even better in the days ahead.

All the best to everyone, and until we meet again soon...

Mario Šafran

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IMPRESSUM

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Ceremonial session of the Senate of the University of Zagreb on the occasion of the 357th Anniversary

On the occasion of the Day of the University of Zagreb and the 357th anniversary of its founding, a ceremonial session of the Senate of the University of Zagreb was held in the ceremonial hall of the Regional Centre for the Development of Entrepreneurial Competencies for South East European Countries (SEECEL). The ceremony was opened by the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., and numerous distinguished guests from the academic, political, and social communities addressed those in attendance.

The President of the Student Council of the University of Zagreb, Gordan Kragić, emphasized that today's generation of students recognizes its role in building a responsible academic community and expressed hope for improvements in student living standards through increased scholarships, expanded accommodation capacities, and the introduction of free doctoral studies. The Rector of the University of Zadar and President of the Rectors' Conference of the Republic of Croatia, Prof. Josip Faričić, Ph.D., congratulated the Universi-

ty on its anniversary and compared it to an olive tree with deep roots symbolizing tradition and memory, which requires careful cultivation to flourish and bear abundant fruit. Emphasizing the key role of the University of Zagreb as the central institution of Croatian higher education and a generator of ideas and innovation, he expressed hope that the entire academic community would continue to act as a responsible builder of society. "Let us be not only diligent and honorable builders of our national society, but also of Europe and the world, and proud guardians of our identity."

On behalf of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academician Davor Miličić addressed the audience, recalling the historical connection between the University and the Academy and their shared mission of preserving knowledge, ethics, and social responsibility. "The university is not only a place for the transmission of knowledge, but also for its creation—a space of free thought and intellectual courage," he stated.

The Head of the City Office for Education, Sport and

Guests at the ceremonial session of the Senate





Rector Lakušić and Minister Fuchs

Youth, Luka Juroš, envoy of the Mayor of Zagreb, highlighted the successful cooperation between the City and the University through numerous projects, including the renovation of buildings damaged by the earthquake, the development of the Borongaj campus, as well as increased student scholarships and investments in student sports.

Member of Parliament Prof. Vesna Bedeković, Ph.D., envoy of the President of the Croatian Parliament, emphasized that the University of Zagreb brings together more than half of the Croatian academic community and has an important task in creating intellectual capital as the foundation for the development of a society based on knowledge and culture.

The Minister of Science, Education and Youth, Prof. Radovan Fuchs, Ph.D., congratulated the University on its anniversary and expressed satisfaction that, during the ceremonial session, a four-year program agreement would be signed between the University of Zagreb and the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, worth more than 1.8 billion euros. He also noted that the new financing model would further improve the quality and accessibility of higher education and encourage research activity. In conclusion, Minister Fuchs stated: “Academic institutions must remain guardians of academic freedom and fundamental values, such as freedom of research and thought, while maintaining high ethical standards and strict criteria in governance and financial management.”

In his address, Rector Lakušić presented the most important activities and achievements of the University over the past year, as well as plans for the future. He particularly referred to the renovation of buildings

damaged in the earthquake, system digitalization, strengthening international cooperation and partnerships with industry, the development of human resources, and infrastructure projects, including the Borongaj Science and University Campus. Speaking about all aspects of the University Administration’s activities over the past year—from study programs, science, innovation and technology transfer, international cooperation and internationalization, quality management systems and cooperation with industry—the Rector also presented key activities carried out in the areas of infrastructure development and human resources development at the University, digitalization, as well as projects and initiatives in the arts and students’ sporting achievements.

“Today, the purpose, value, and ‘cost-effectiveness’ of universities are often questioned. However, in this process, it is important to be aware of the social importance and value of universities, as well as the direct benefits that their cooperation with industry brings to society as a whole. Universities create new knowledge, enhance the skills of future professionals, act in a socially responsible manner, and find solutions to many current global challenges. Education is a key actor of our time and contributes to strengthening the prosperity and competitiveness of the country in which it operates,” Rector Lakušić concluded. ■



Recipients of the University of Zagreb awards

Recipients of the University of Zagreb awards**Andrija Štampar Award:****Prof. Olga Gornik Kljajić, Ph.D.,**

Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry

Prof. Božo Krušlin, Ph.D.,

School of Medicine

Prof. Jasna Lovrić, Ph.D.,

School of Medicine

Prof. Zrinka Tarle, Ph.D.,

School of Dental Medicine

Prof. Tomislav Dobranić, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Praemium Biotechnicum Award:**Prof. Vlatka Čurbić Čurik, Ph.D.,**

Faculty of Agriculture

Prof. Hrvoje Turkulin, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology

Prof. Blaženka Kos, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology

Alica Wertheimer Baletić Award:**Prof. Žarka Vujić, Ph.D.,**

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Prof. Lajoš Žager, Ph.D.

Faculty of Economics and Business

Viktor Žmegač Award:**Assist. Prof. Maša Grdešić, Ph.D.,**

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Prof. Ivan Koprek, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Andrija Mohorovičić Award:**Prof. Dražen Balen, Ph.D.,**

Faculty of Science

Prof. Nenad Pavin, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Science

Fran Bošnjaković Award:**Prof. Zlatko Karač, Ph.D.,**

Faculty of Architecture

Prof. Sanja Martinez, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology

Ars Summa Universitatis Award:**Prof. Snježana Banović, Ph.D.,**

Academy of Dramatic Art

Full Professor of Art Leo Modrčin,

Faculty of Architecture

Full Professor of Art Đorđe Stanetti,

Academy of Music

Innovator of the Year Award:**Prof. Sandra Bischof, Ph.D.,**

Faculty of Textile Technology

University Innovation of the Year Award:**Prof. Sanja Martinez, Ph.D., and****Assistant Ivana Šoić, M.Sc. in Applied Chemistry,**

Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology

Award for the Most Successful Technology Transfer:**Prof. Daniel Hofman, Ph.D.,**

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing

Honorary titles of Professor Emeritus**Prof. Tajana Krička, Ph.D.,**

Faculty of Agriculture

Prof. Bojan Baletić, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Architecture

Prof. Vedran Mornar, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing

Prof. Vjeran Strahonja, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Organization and Informatics

Prof. Zvonimir Guzović, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture

Prof. Karmela Barišić, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry

Prof. Darko Polšek, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Prof. Marjeta Mišigoj-Duraković, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Kinesiology

Prof. Marijan Klarica, Ph.D.,

School of Medicine

Prof. Adriana Vince, Ph.D.,

School of Medicine

Prof. Duška Ćurić, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology

Prof. Dubravka Matković Čalogović, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Science

Academician Mirko Orlić,

Faculty of Science

Prof. Davor Pavelić, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering

Prof. Ivan Prskalo, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Teacher Education

Prof. Petar Džaja, Ph.D.,

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Doctor of Arts Zrinko Ogresta,

Academy of Dramatic Art

Art. Duje Jurić,

Academy of Fine Arts

Art. Ante Rašić,

Academy of Fine Arts

Award recipients – students**Toni Brajko** (Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing)

– for international achievements in programming and mentorship work

Frane Matija Krasnić (Faculty of Economics)

– for academic excellence and the development of the inclusive SIADUS platform

Dorijan Lendvaj (Faculty of Science)

– for winning the European Championship in programming

Ivan Matošević (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture)

– for first place at the World RoboCup competition in Brazil

Marta Petračić (Faculty of Architecture)

– for winning the international architectural competition 120 Hours 2025

Marko Uzelac (Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering)

– for scientific contributions and innovative projects

Awards granted to professors in permanent positions and commemorative medals to retired professors and teachers

On Monday, November 3, the University of Zagreb Week program was officially opened with the awarding of recognitions to full professors with permanent appointments, as well as commemorative medals to retired professors and instructors for the past academic year. The ceremony was held on the occasion of University Day and the beginning of the 357th academic year.

Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D. emphasized the importance of teachers and researchers in maintaining the excellence and international visibility of the University, highlighting that full professors with permanent appointments are the foundation of the academic community. In his speech, the rector also expressed special gratitude to the retired professors and teachers of the University of Zagreb in the 2024/2025 academic year. He noted that the ceremony is an opportunity to thank them for everything they have done for the academic community, and especially for the University of Zagreb, emphasizing that, in addition to their fundamental teaching roles at the University, their experience and expertise contributed to the continuity and stability of the higher education system. He thanked the retired professors for their long-standing contributions to the development of the University and the continuity of the higher education system. On behalf of the professors with permanent appointments, Prof. Ernest Bilić, Ph.D., from the Faculty of Medicine, addressed those present at the ceremony, while Prof. Ivan Šestak, Ph.D., from the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, former dean of FFRZ, spoke on behalf of the retired professors. Professor Bilić emphasized that the recognition is not only a personal achievement but also a confirmation of the collective work of the academic community. He stressed that a permanent appointment carries the responsibility of preserving knowledge and academic values and stated that professors must serve as an example to students that scientific progress is based on evidence and ethics. Professor Šestak expressed gratitude for the commemorative medals, highlighting their significance for professors who have dedicated their lives to teaching and research. He also emphasized pride in the generations of students who are today working at world-renowned universities, in science, and in responsible social roles. ■

Panel on the processes of internationalization of higher education institutions through European University Alliances

On Monday, November 10, 2025, the panel “Processes of Internationalization of Higher Education Institutions through European University Alliances” was held, moderated by Prof. Jurica Pavičić, Ph.D., Vice-Rector for International and Interinstitutional Cooperation at the University of Zagreb. He emphasized the key role of European alliances in strengthening institutional policies, knowledge exchange, and the development of a common European higher education space. The opening presentation was delivered by Loredana Maravić, MSc, from the Ministry of Science, Education, and Youth, who presented current national internationalization policies. The panel included vice-rectors and university leaders involved in the European alliances UNIC, SEA-EU, EU-CONEXUS, YUFE, and EUNICoast, who shared their experiences regarding results achieved so far, challenges, and best practices. During the dynamic discussion, the panelists exchanged insights on the impact of European alliances on the development of institutional policies, challenges in implementing joint activities, and examples of good practices that have enhanced the international visibility of Croatian universities. Particular attention was given to the benefits that alliances provide to students and faculty through joint programs, virtual campuses, and networked research initiatives. Prof. Filip Sedlić, Ph.D., from the University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, shared his experience within the Alliance4Life initiative, after which participants focused on discussing the future of European university alliances and the need to strengthen national support for their sustainability. In his conclusion, Prof. Pavičić thanked the participants and the audience, emphasizing that Croatian European university alliances have demonstrated the power of joint action and that their experiences form a foundation for further improving the quality and international recognition of Croatian higher education. ■

Rector's awards for the academic year 2024/2025 solemnly awarded

In the ceremonial hall of the University of Zagreb in the SEECEL building, the Rector's Award for the 2024/2025 academic year was presented on November 6, 2025. Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., in his speech, emphasized that the Rector's award is the highest, and often the first major, recognition for students' achievements in research. "The awarded students are the best of the best, which is why today's ceremony is dedicated to those who will be the creators of our future. Our students show that even in the early stages of their studies, they are capable of and willing to dedicate themselves to scientific work, research, and innovation, without which there can be no progress in our economy and society as a whole. Being involved in research from the very beginning of their studies is extremely important to our students, and the entire academic community supports them in these efforts," said the Rector. Thanking everyone who has supported and encouraged the students being awarded today in their research work, he especially highlighted the important role of mentors. "I thank the mentors of the awarded students. These top scientists and educators always find time to involve students in their research. As individuals, we often feel powerless in the face of the challenges we encounter, but if we join forces and work together in research, we achieve much more—sometimes even what we once thought impossible. The University of Zagreb is fortunate that, in addition to transferring knowledge, our professors show students by example that great results can be achieved through persistence, hard work, and creativity." This year, 109 awards were presented in six categories, including awards for individual and team scientific and artistic works, special competitive achievements, and socially beneficial work. A total of 236 submissions were received for the competition, and a committee composed of distinguished professors selected the best based on scientific quality, creativity, and applicability. On behalf of the awarded students, Mía Đogić from the Academy of Music spoke, highlighting that the award serves as an encouragement for young researchers to continue contributing to the development of the academic and broader community. In the musical part of the program, students from the Academy of Music performed, and in the foyer of the hall, an exhibition of posters of the awarded works was opened. ■



Recipients of the Rector's award

UNIVERSITY WEEKLY NEWS, pp. 3–11
source: University website

University Jazz Gala Concert



The performers of the University Jazz Gala Concert

On Sunday, November 9, in the ceremonial hall of the Rectorate of the University of Zagreb, the University Jazz Gala Concert was held, continuing the long-standing collaboration between the University and Croatian Radiotelevision. The HRT Jazz Orchestra, led by artistic director Miron Hauser, along with soloists Sabrina Hebiri, Mateo Đikić, and fifth-year trumpet student Patrik Palić, presented a program that took the audience through a brief history of jazz and the most famous international and domestic hits arranged for jazz orchestra. During the evening, pieces such as Wonder Why I Had to Fall for You by Marko Šolman, Sing, Sing, Sing by Louis Prima, Groove Merchant by Jerome Richardson, and Moanin' by Charles Mingus were performed, with saxophonist Damir Horvat impressing the audience with his solo. The thunderous applause also honored the other orchestra soloists – Branko Sterpin, Vojkan Jocić, Luka Žužić, Joe Kaplowitz, Mira Kadoić, Davor Križić, Janko Novoselić, Mario Bočić, Mihael Györek, and Elvis Penava. In Hauser's composition La Ultima, the young trumpeter Patrik Palić also joined them. Sabrina Hebiri performed hits by Dino Dvornik and Tereza Kesovija's song Sviraj mi, sviraj in an arrangement by Bruno Matić. In the final part of the concert, young singer Mateo Đikić shone with interpretations of timeless Frank Sinatra classics. The prolonged applause led to an encore – a joint performance by Sabrina Hebiri and Đikić of the song The Lady Is a Tramp. After the concert, the gathering continued with music by the Greenhill Club Orchestra under the direction of Prof. Bruno Baršić, Ph.D., retired full professor and the president of the alumni association of the School of Medicine – AMAMUZ. ■

First Economic Forum of the University of Zagreb

On Tuesday, November 11, 2025, the first Economic Forum of the University of Zagreb, titled Competitive and Resilient Croatia, was held in the ceremonial hall of the Regional Center for the Development of Entrepreneurial Competences for Southeast European Countries (SEECEL). The forum brought together leading representatives from the business, financial, and academic sectors with the aim of discussing key elements for strengthening Croatia's competitiveness and prosperity. The event was opened by Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., Chairman of the Economic Council Siniša Krajnović, Ph.D., and State Secretary at the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth Prof. Nikola Mrvac, Ph.D., who spoke on behalf of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia. Rector Lakušić emphasized that the forum aims to strengthen cooperation between the academic community and the business sector through quality education, cutting-edge research, and innovation, thereby promoting the growth of the Croatian economy and the creation of new jobs. "Universities are the greatest asset of any country, key to the development, prosperity, and competitiveness of society. Students at the University of Zagreb represent the future professionals who will shape the country's future," he highlighted.

Chairman of the Economic Council Siniša Krajnović, Ph.D., emphasized the strategic role of partnerships between the academic community and the economy in achieving sustainable development and enhancing national competitiveness. He noted that Croatia's human potential must be transformed into a driving force for development through systematic cooperation, innovation, and the creation of new projects. "The Economic Council of the University of Zagreb is a bridge between science and the market, encouraging innovation, creating jobs, and ensuring the growth of Croatia's competitiveness," said Krajnović. State Secretary Prof. Nikola Mrvac, Ph.D., speaking on behalf of the government, stressed the importance of knowledge, unity, and resilience for a competitive Croatia. Addressing contemporary challenges—from artificial intelligence to social changes—he highlighted that resilience and competitiveness depend on the ability to adapt, act responsibly, and use knowledge wisely.



Panel participants
The role of the University of Zagreb in achieving a competitive and innovative Croatia

At the forum, the Award for Economic Excellence – the Academic Oscar – was also presented. This award is given to companies that have achieved outstanding collaboration with the University and contributed to innovation, the community, and the international recognition of Croatia. This year, the award was presented to Končar d.d. and DOK-ING d.o.o. for innovative projects in energy, digitalization, infrastructure, urban mobility, robotics, automation, defense, and security.

The first panel, The Role of the University of Zagreb in Achieving a Competitive and Innovative Croatia, brought together prominent representatives from academia and business, including Irena Weber (HUP), Prof. Nikolina Brnjac, Ph.D. (European Parliament), academician Bojan Jerbić (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture), Siniša Krajnović, Ph.D. (Ericsson Nikola Tesla), Luka Novosel (advisor to the Minister of Regional Development), and Rector Stjepan Lakušić. The discussion focused on Croatia's national competitiveness within the EU, the need for greater investment in research and development, digital transformation, commercialization of academic

research, and retaining young talent through quality collaboration between universities and the economy. In the second part of the forum, Vice-Rector Prof. Tomislav Josip Mlinarić, Ph.D., spoke about the role of the innovation ecosystem in economic development. The panel Education, Scientific Research, and Partnership with the Economy – Key to a Prosperous and Competitive Croatia included State Secretary Stipe Župan, academician Sven Lončarić, Mladen Vedriš, Ph.D., Gordan Kolak (Končar d.d.), Alen Herjavac (HBOR), and Vice-Rector Mlinarić. The discussion addressed the integration of the innovation ecosystem into education, the importance of STEM programs, the development of laboratory infrastructure, and the effective use of EU funds for research and development.

The first Economic Forum of the University of Zagreb demonstrated that synergy between knowledge, entrepreneurship, and public institutions is key to developing a competitive and innovative Croatia. It also established a platform for further cooperation and concrete projects that will shape the future of the economy and society. ■



Panel participants
Education, scientific research, and partnership with the economy

University Book Day at SEECEL: The Book as the Foundation of Knowledge in Contemporary Society



Participants of the panel discussion

On Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at the building of the Regional Centre for the Development of Entrepreneurial Competences for Southeast European Countries – SEECEL, the University Book Day was held, one of the central events of the University of Zagreb Week. The program was opened by Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., who emphasized the importance of the university book in preserving and transmitting knowledge. He particularly presented a new publication by the University of Zagreb, which brings together 52 new academic editions – 37 university textbooks and 15 manuals, including two English translations – approved as part of the *Manualia Universitatis studiorum Zagabiensis* series. The Rector also highlighted the challenges and opportunities brought by new digital technologies, stressing that despite their importance, “the classical book remains a lasting record and man’s best friend.” As part of the program, special awards were presented to the most successful university units in the field of academic teaching literature for the 2024/2025 academic year. Awards were given to the Faculty of Organization and Informatics, the School of Dental Medicine, and the Faculty of Economics, received by Prof. Zlatko Erjavec, Ph.D., Prof. Marin Vodanović, Ph.D., and Associate Prof. Jakša Krišto, Ph.D. Following this, Prof. Boštjan Marko Turk, Ph.D., from the University of Ljubljana delivered a lecture titled “The Book, Civilization, and Artificial Intelligence.” Speaking about the book as the foundation of human individuality, he reflected on contemporary challenges for literature and culture and emphasized that the future depends on “preserving reading, thinking, and words.” Particular interest

was drawn by the panel “The University Book as a Bridge Between Science and Society,” which featured representatives from various scientific fields and the student community: Prof. Marina Dabić, Ph.D., academician Bojan Jerbić, Prof. Boris Brkljačić, Ph.D., Prof. Ana Barbarić, Ph.D., and Gordan Kragić, President of the Student Council of the University of Zagreb. The panelists discussed the role of the book in contemporary education, digital trends, globalization, and the impact of artificial intelligence on the processes of learning and creation.

The panel participants agreed that the book, regardless of its form, remains an irreplaceable tool in education and scientific development. In the concluding part of the discussion, it was noted that the book has the power to connect science, technology, and society, and must maintain its central role in the educational process. Artificial intelligence was recognized as a useful tool, but one that requires necessary ethical and social regulation. The panel concluded with a joint message that the future of knowledge depends on the collaboration of humans, technology, and the book — three elements that together shape societal progress. University Book Day brought together numerous members of the university community — rectors and vice-rectors, deans and vice-deans, professors, commission members, publishers, students, and other guests — reaffirming the importance of the book as a lasting foundation of academic and social development. ■



Zlatko Erjavec accepts the award on behalf of FOI

The 30th Anniversary of the University of Zagreb Fair Held

The 30th Anniversary of the University of Zagreb Fair, the largest and oldest event aimed at high school graduates as well as current and prospective students, was held from November 13 to 15, 2025, at the Zagreb Fair. Since its inception, the Fair has maintained the same goal – to provide senior high school students, university students, and all interested parties with reliable information about study programs, admission requirements, and topics important for choosing a future career. As in previous years, the Fair brought together representatives from all constituent units of the University of Zagreb – 31 faculties and three art academies – as well as institutions and organizations operating within the University. Visitors received information about studying at all levels at the exhibition spaces, while the accompanying program was organized into three thematic sections: professional orientation, the study experience, and the University’s digital transition. Professional orientation in Cres Hall was carried out with the help of a virtual assistant and an AI career advisor, through which visitors, after a brief analysis of their interests, received recommendations for appropriate fields of study and guidance to the exhibition spaces of faculties and academies. On the main stage, the program “Students for Future Students” was held, organized in collaboration with the Student Council of the University of Zagreb. Twelve student projects from various fields were presented, aiming to encourage future students to engage in activities beyond their regular academic obligations. Throughout all three days, alongside promotional films by the constituent units and sponsors, a promotional film by the ALUMNI UNIZG Association was also shown, featuring photos and statements from distinguished former students of the University of Zagreb. In front of the Congress Center, a retrospective exhibition titled “30 Years of the University of Zagreb Fair” was displayed, showcasing the development of the event from its first edition in 1997 to the 30th anniversary edition. On the last day of the Fair, an awards ceremony was held in categories decided by the Student Council of the University of Zagreb and the University’s Organizing Committee. The Student Council awarded the recognition for communicativeness and approachability to the Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering of the University of Zagreb, for innovation



Rector Lakušić with the award recipients

to the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences of the University of Zagreb, and the award for the best-arranged exhibition space went to the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology of the University of Zagreb.

Awards in categories decided by the University’s Organizing Committee were as follows: the recognition for the best-arranged exhibition space was awarded to the Faculty of Teacher Education of the University of Zagreb, the recognition for contribution to educating and informing visitors went to the School of Dental Medicine of the University of Zagreb, and the award for the best presentation of a student project at the 30th Fair was given to the “Lege Artis” Choir of School of Medicine students for the project Academic Quarter. The award for the best presentation of a student association went to the Erasmus Student Network (ESN).

The recognition for the best performance of an additional activity in this year’s Fair program was awarded to the popularization group Entropija for the demonstration “Fire as a Pet.” The award in the digitalization category went to the University Computing Centre – SRCE, and for outstanding contribution to organizing the 30th anniversary Fair, the recognition was given to the Student Council of the University of Zagreb. ■

The Electoral Assembly of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association held

Paula Pavletić and Petra Lojen



The President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association

At the University of Zagreb, on June 26, 2025, the Electoral assembly of the Association of societies of former students of the University of Zagreb – ALUMNI UNIZG was held, attended by presidents and representatives of alumni associations from the University's constituent units, as well as deans of several faculties. The ceremonial gathering began with the singing of the academic anthem *Gaudeamus igitur*, after which the President of the Association's Presidency, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., addressed the attendees, welcoming all distinguished guests, alumni of our University, and expressing gratitude to the University Administration for their wholehearted cooperation and support of alumni activities.

On behalf of the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., the Vice-Rector for International and Inter-Institutional Cooperation, Prof. Jurica Pavičić, Ph.D., greeted those present, emphasizing that such meetings serve as a reminder that affiliation with the University of Zagreb is not only an academic fact but also an integral part of our personal and professional identity. He highlighted the importance of gatherings like this, which reflect a system of values and the relationship with the institution and the community. Following the welcoming speeches, the official part of the session began, during which the President of the Association presented the Work Report for the period 2021–2025, focusing particularly on the Association's most prominent activities. He reported that four issues of the Association's *Glasnik* were published in both Croatian and English during the re-

porting period. As part of the Alumni Stories series, 10 discussions and 4 lectures on professional topics were held, and the project of providing a unified alias email address was successfully continued. On the initiative of ALUMNI UNIZG Association and the Vice-Rector for Arts, Culture, and Inter-University Cooperation, Prof. Art. Jasenka Ostojić, the 10th Festival of Choirs and Musical Ensembles at the University of Zagreb – Uni Choral Fest – was held in June.

During the Assembly, ALUMNI UNIZG Association presented certificates of appreciation to individuals who contributed to the work of the Association. Certificates were awarded to Assoc. Prof. Art. Inja Kavurić Kireta for designing the new visual identity of ALUMNI UNIZG Association, Assoc. Prof. Miroslav Mikota, Ph.D., and Trpimir Jeronim Ježić, Ph.D., for the graphic preparation of the *Glasnik*, and Andrej Smoldaka, MA, for translating *Glasnik* into the English language. After the presentation of certificates, the members of the Assembly proceeded to vote for the President and members of the Association's bodies for the mandate period 2025–2029. Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., from the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, was re-elected as President of the Association, having previously served two terms from 2017–2025. The following were elected as members of the Presidency: Zoran Čogelja, Ph.D. (AMAC-RGNF), Assoc. Prof. Martina Kolar Billege, Ph.D. (AMAC-UFZG), Prof. Mirela Leskovac, Ph.D. (AMACIZ), Prof. Ana Matin, Ph.D. (AMAC-Alumni FAZ), and Prof. Ivana Miletić, Ph.D. (AMA SFZG). Coordinators of affiliated members elected were Krešimir Mustapić (AMCA Toronto) and Lamia Ruždić-Barbier (AMCA Paris). Members of the Supervisory Board elected were Prof. Ivan Alajbeg, Ph.D. (AMA SFZG), Assoc. Prof. Vanja Jurišić, Ph.D. (AMAC-Alumni FAZ), and Assoc. Prof. Ljerka Kratofil Krehula, Ph.D. (AMACIZ). Members of the Honorary Court elected were Prof. Petar Džaja, Ph.D. (AMAC-VEF), Stjepan Gotal (AMCA Toronto), and Prof. Emi Govorčin Bajsić, Ph.D. (AMACIZ). Following the elections, an Alumni Story session titled *From Belonging to Recognition* was held, featuring Prof. Nataša Jokić-Begić, Ph.D., and Prof. Božo Skoko, Ph.D. More details about the session can be found in a separate article below. The gathering concluded with a reception held in the lobby of the hall. ■

Uni Choral Fest 2025 held at the University of Zagreb



Performers and guests of the Uni Choral Fest in the ceremonial hall of the University of Zagreb

The 10th Festival of Choirs and Ensembles of the University of Zagreb, titled Uni Choral Fest, was held on June 3, 2025, in the ceremonial hall of the University of Zagreb (SEECEL building). The musical event, initiated by the Association of societies of former students of the University of Zagreb – ALUMNI UNIZG and the Vice-Rector for Art, Culture, and Interuniversity Cooperation of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Art. Jasenka Ostojić, Ph.D., featured choirs, vocal ensembles, and musical groups active at the University of Zagreb and its constituent faculties. The festival included performances by: Academic Choir of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Concordia discors, Academic Choir Vladimir Prelog of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Choir of the Institute of Church Music of the Catholic Fac-

ulty of Theology, Academic Choir of the Faculty of Science Cantus naturae, School of Medicine Student Choir Lege artis, Academic Choir of the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Women's Vocal Ensemble Rezonanca of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb Wind Orchestra, Vocal Group of the Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb, Čakovec Department and Folk Singers of the Catholic Faculty of Theology. A particularly moving moment occurred at the very end when all choirs performed the student anthem Gaudeamus igitur together. The program continued in the atrium, where, in a more relaxed atmosphere, the Greenhill Club Orchestra of the School of Medicine performed, bringing the event to a close in a spirit of socializing and musical celebration. ■

Uni Choral Fest poster



Greenhill Club Orchestra



Alumni Story: From Belonging to Recognition

Source: akademski.hr



Božo Skoko and Nataša Jokić-Begić

As part of the Electoral Assembly of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, an Alumni Story was held: From Belonging to Recognition, featuring Prof. Nataša Jokić-Begić, Ph.D., and Prof. Božo Skoko, Ph.D. The discussion about university branding, the sense of belonging, and alumni as a brand was led by Mislav Togonal, journalist and editor at HRT, with distinguished university professors and leading experts in their fields. Questions addressed included how to translate these ideas into concrete actions, how to involve well-known alumni who have achieved great

success in their fields to make the university recognizable, and which knowledge and experiences from renowned universities worldwide could be applied locally.

Prof. Nataša Jokić-Begić, Ph.D., is a full professor with permanent tenure at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, in the Department of Psychology, and head of the Chair of Health and Clinical Psychology. She is actively engaged in research and clinical work in the field of clinical psychology. Her scientific interests focus on the study of etiological factors of anxiety, the manifestations of anxiety disorders and their treatment, as well as the psychological manifestations of stress. Recently, she has been researching the impact of the internet on the development of health anxiety.

Prof. Božo Skoko, Ph.D., is a full professor at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb. He teaches courses on public relations, brand management, public diplomacy, and the strategic communication of states. His research areas include public relations, communication, media, national identity and image management, branding, as well as international relations and public diplomacy. He was among the first in Croatia to scientifically study the phenomenon of nation branding, particularly managing Croatian identity and image. "It is well known that univer-



guests of Alumni Stories and the audience

sities have been working on their own branding for decades. Here's an interesting fact: when the world's first PR agency, The Publicity Bureau, was established in Boston in 1900, its first client was Harvard University, which shows that this prestigious university has been building its brand for a long time," Prof. Skoko emphasized. He added that every brand has both a rational and an emotional component. The rational component is about the university's value, the quality of its study programs, who teaches there, and the prestigious awards won by alumni. These metrics form the basis for global university rankings. The emotional component also builds the university's brand—it includes stories about the university, stardust, rowing competitions, sports events, unforgettable parties—essentially everything that emotionally connects alumni and attracts new students. "People always gather around good things, around comfort. The university must work on fostering a sense of community. On the other hand, our faculties are not centralized but scattered throughout the city, which does not create a sense of belonging among students. We should design joint activities for students. Why shouldn't all our classrooms be designed by architecture students, why shouldn't students from the Faculty of Textile Technology create fabrics for the university's needs, why shouldn't the Faculty of Agriculture showcase all the products it produces?" Prof. Jokić-Begić posed, raising important questions.

Prof. Skoko participated in a working group for branding the University of Zagreb, which resulted in a standards book to make the university recognizable. He also gave examples of how alumni can enhance the university's reputation. "Renowned universities worldwide have clear strategies and invest heavily in branding. They view their alumni on three levels. First, as brand ambassadors: if someone succeeds in their career, they become an authentic witness with a degree from that university. Second, the connection to the business sector is crucial: if a former student leads a large company, they open doors to potential scholarships, collaborations, projects, and more for current students. Third, financial support from alumni is very important, from donations to funding specific projects. Alumni are the link between the university's past and future," explained Prof. Skoko.



Guests of Alumni Stories with host Mislav Togonal

Prof. Jokić-Begić provided suggestions on fostering a sense of belonging among current and former students, so they feel part of the university, not just their home faculty. "A shared visual identity is essential—for example, a unified template for presentations. It's important to involve students in university branding so that one day they feel a sense of belonging. The advantage of a large university like ours is that its components cover all areas of life," she emphasized. Prof. Skoko highlighted that cultivating pride is crucial: if we are proud to be part of the University of Zagreb, we will promote it and act as its brand ambassadors. He concluded that fostering a sense of community across faculties requires collaboration, program exchanges, and joint projects and events. ■



Guests of Alumni Stories with host Mislav Togonal

New Visual Identity of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association

Source: akademski.hr

“Knowledge becomes life” is the new slogan of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, which perfectly symbolizes the transformation of academic experience into tangible, real-life value. The slogan and the new visual identity were designed by Associate Professor of Art Inja Kavurić Kireta from the Design Department at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb, and were recently presented to the public at the Electoral Assembly of the Association of societies of former students of the University of Zagreb.

The identity, alongside the new slogan, is visually supported by a logo and an illustration. The new ALUMNI UNIZG logo carries a subtle yet powerful message about the largest and most influential university in the country. By removing the dot on the letter “I,” a “1” symbol is formed, subtly emphasizing the leading role of the University of Zagreb, the largest and strongest higher education institution in Croatia, whose alumni are present in all areas of professional life. The accompanying illustration metaphorically depicts the ascent through the educational system: from a paper airplane in elementary education to the vastness of space, symbolizing higher education, freedom of thought,

and limitless professional opportunities. This illustration is not just a symbol of education; it is a

story about each of us. It reminds us that alumni are not merely former students but enduring ambassadors of knowledge, which in the real world translates into action, innovation, and responsibility. While the elements of the illustration are recognizable on a symbolic level, their combination in this way creates a new visual narrative that aligns with the very idea of the ALUMNI UNIZG identity.

Ahead of the Electoral Assembly, where the new visual identity was presented, promotional material was produced and distributed to participants. Positive feedback and enthusiasm for the new visual identity confirmed to the designer that she had created a high-quality solution infused with knowledge, effort, and enthusiasm. “Ultimately, I am grateful to Ms.

Pavletić from the ALUMNI UNIZG Office and her team for their trust and the opportunity to collaborate. I am especially satisfied when what I design resonates well with the client. Nothing could have been realized without dialogue - this is the result of conversation, proposals, and understanding what the

other party wants and needs,” emphasizes Professor Kavurić Kireta. “Identity is created over time through the continuous and consistent application of design elements combined with an authentic story.”

Professor Kavurić Kireta has extensive experience as a graphic designer. She has worked in design and marketing agencies as well as a freelancer, illustrating children’s books, textbooks, and magazines, and publishing comics. Since 2010, she has dedicated herself to education at the School of Design of the Faculty of Architecture, where she teaches drawing and illustration while continuously developing teaching methodologies and introducing new and innovative content. She also leads the art workshops “Ajđ nacrđaj neš!” aimed at both adults and children, promoting the importance of illustration in visual communication and fostering visual literacy through participatory projects connecting educational institutions vertically. Her particular area of interest lies in researching creative processes and in character and narrative design—a specific field crucial for visual communication design, interaction design, video game design, and branding. “The role of the designer is crucial in shaping our real and virtual worlds. That is why, at the School of Design, we educate in an interdisciplinary spirit, so that our students are sensitive, critical, innovative, and responsible in the world in which they operate,” concludes Professor Kavurić Kireta. ■



AMAC-Alumni FAZ

Expansion of the alumni community and strengthening the role of alumni in the agricultural sector

Ana Matin

In recent years, the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Agriculture (AMAC-Alumni FAZ) has invested significant effort in strengthening mutual connections, increasing membership, and actively involving former students in everything that shapes modern agriculture today. The more we grow, the clearer it becomes that the strength of our community does not lie in the institution itself, but in the people—our members, their knowledge, and their willingness to support one another. For us, increasing membership is not merely an administrative task or a list of names; it is the foundation upon which we build the present of our association and the future of the profession. Each new member brings their story, a part of their professional journey, and experience that further enriches the mosaic of agronomy we are creating together. We especially strive to bring our work closer to those on the verge of becoming our future alumni students in their final years. We want them, from the very start of their professional paths, to feel that the alumni network is not something abstract or distant, but a living community that exists for them and because of them. For this reason, our participation in AgroAdvent held special significance, as the proceeds from sales were directed to humanitarian purposes for the organization Red Noses, allowing us to contribute together to their work with children in hospitals. Our stand featured products made by final-year students—our future alumni—who were responsible for production, sales, and presentation. Their presence brought a special energy to the event: youthful, professional, and optimistic. Through their work, we saw how ready they were to take initiative, demonstrate their knowledge, and show that the upcoming generations already carry new strength and freshness. Participation in AgroAdvent thus had a dual significance for us. On one hand, we presented the work of the alum-



Participants of the panel “The Role of Alumni in Innovative Risk Management in Agriculture.”

ni community; on the other, we helped our future alumni showcase themselves to the public and, through the humanitarian dimension, contributed to the community in a broader social sense. During this period, a panel discussion we held in collaboration with the ALUMNI UNIZG Association and the Faculty of Agriculture also stood out. The panel, titled “The Role of Alumni in Innovative Risk Management in Agriculture,” addressed the important question of how to combine academic knowledge, field experience, and innovative approaches in a sector that faces uncertainties daily. The panelists were highly qualified experts from the private sector, academia, public institutions, and the chamber system. Each, from their own perspective, provided valuable insights demonstrating how alumni can be a driving force for change. The discussion was guided by a series of questions that explored different dimensions of risk management. Ivana Rendulić Jelušić, owner of Alti Agro, representing the private sector, spoke about the development of her business, her motivation to enter the field of precision agriculture, and the technologies she considers key for innovative risk management. She particularly highlighted the challenges encountered when implementing technologies in the field, as well as the ways she

motivates farmers to adopt modern tools. Her examples of concrete projects clearly demonstrated how innovations can reduce production risks, as well as the importance of collaboration with the academic community and alumni, who often bring fresh perspectives, research energy, and expertise. She also spoke about the future of her company, the role of young agronomists in developing new solutions, and the need for active alumni participation in shaping strategies that will define agriculture in the years to come. The Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Aleksandar Mešić, Ph.D., spoke on topics related to education, student motivation, and contemporary challenges linked to declining interest in agricultural studies. He emphasized the importance of involving alumni in developing new solutions and noted that former students can be key partners in implementing research projects, field initiatives, and educational programs. Among the competencies considered crucial for risk management, he highlighted analytical thinking, interdisciplinarity, practical skills, and a willingness to learn and adapt. Tugomir Majdak, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, discussed strategic frameworks—from legal regulations to national and European initiatives aimed at

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

risk reduction and climate adaptation. He particularly emphasized the importance of collaboration with alumni and the academic community, as young professionals often identify new trends and needs in the field first.

Tajana Radić, Ph.D., representing the Croatian Chamber of Agriculture, spoke about the daily risks producers face, their readiness to apply innovative strategies, and technologies already showing the best results in practice. She stressed the importance of collaboration with alumni, who can connect theory and practice, and noted that joint efforts can promote better education, improved risk understanding, and greater farmer engagement in decision-making processes. The panel thus demonstrated

that the panelists were truly “one of us” for our alumni community—professionals from various fields, yet connected to the faculty, the profession, and the experience they share with many of us. Their answers, reflections, and suggestions were not theoretical but grounded in real challenges and experiences, giving the event special value. Throughout the discussion, a common thread was evident: a desire for agriculture to be sustainable, innovative, and future-oriented, while remaining closely connected to the people who live it every day. For all these reasons, AMAC-Alumni FAZ strives to build a community where every member is important and where we collectively create values that go beyond one-time projects and events.

Looking back at everything we have achieved, it is clear that we are in a period of intense growth. Our community is becoming increasingly active, connected, and present in important discussions about the future of agriculture.

We are proud of our members’ enthusiasm and their willingness to respond, participate, propose, and shape the community we all want to see. We believe this trend will continue in the coming years, as our plan is not only to maintain existing activities but also to expand them, develop new projects, and further strengthen collaboration with the Faculty and the ALUMNI UNIZG Association. ■

AMAMUZ

News on the Activities of the Alma Mater Alumni Medicinae Universitas Zagrabensis

Jelena Osmanović Barilar and Bruno Baršić

The past year was exceptionally dynamic and marked a significant step forward in strengthening our alumni community. We introduced a completely new and simple way to join – immediately upon graduation, each of our young colleagues can become a member of AMAMUZ with a single barcode scan. This has made expanding our association faster and easier than ever, and every new membership directly contributes to the growth and advancement of the School of Medicine.

We are especially proud to be developing a mentorship program that will connect experienced physicians with our younger members. In this way, we aim to create a support network that will provide students and young doctors with guidance, motivation, and encouragement in building successful careers.

This year, we also established the Section for the Promotion of Musical Creativity of Croatian Physicians, within which our increasingly well-known jazz orchestra,

“The Greenhill Club,” operates. The orchestra has as many as 23 members, and their mission is to restore the brilliance of classic jazz while giving special attention to performing works by physician-musicians such as Nenad Grčević, Milutin Vandekar, Dražen Boić, Nikica and Stipica Kalogjera, as well as contemporary authors Ante Reljić and Bruno Baršić.

“The Greenhill Club” does not stop at concerts – the orchestra actively participates in postgraduate teaching for medical residents and enhances numerous events with its performances: University of Zagreb Week, concerts at the Maksimir Cultural Center, the Wind Festival at Zrinjevac, International Jazz Day at Cvjetni Square, and events in Marija Bistrica, Zabok, Sisak, and many other cities.

With its energy, the orchestra spreads a positive atmosphere, optimism, and a sense of togetherness. Through music, it quite literally has a positive impact on health, fully realizing our goal of connecting medicine and the arts. ■

Greenhill Club in the Maksimir Cultural Center



AMAC - FOI

Alumni FOI Brunch – Gathering of Generations at the Faculty of Organization and Informatics

AMAC-FOI



Participants of the panel discussion at FOI and me

At the Faculty of Organization and Informatics in Varaždin, the Alumni FOI Brunch was held in September—an informal gathering of former students, professors, and friends of FOI that confirmed the strength of connection and the continuity of togetherness within the FOI community. The event, organized by the AMAC-FOI association, highlighted the importance of the alumni network in strengthening the Faculty's academic identity. The gathering brought together many generations—from alumni who studied at FOI in the 1980s to those who graduated in the past few years. The presence of former and current professors was particularly noteworthy, giving the event an authentic spirit of student days and continuity of academic tradition. The program began with a tour of the Varaždin Student Dormitory, presented to the alumni community by Nenad Milijaš, Director of the Varaždin Student Center. For the older generations, this was their first encounter with a modern student dormitory, and many emphasized that they were impressed by the high standard of student accommodation and conditions available to today's students.

Afterward, the alumni visited the Faculty, recalling their student days spent in FOI's lecture halls, laboratories, and corridors. The attendees were welcomed by the Dean, Prof. Marina Klačmer Čalopa, Ph.D., who emphasized that FOI remains a home to all its students, regardless of generation, and that the Faculty proudly follows their professional achievements. She also highlighted the importance of alumni cooperation in building bridges between the academic community and the business world.

On behalf of the AMAC-FOI association,

FOI Brunch



participants were addressed by Prof. Katarina Tomičič-Pupek, Ph.D., President of the association and panel moderator, who stated that alumni are not merely former students, but ambassadors of the Faculty—experts and leaders who pass on their knowledge and experience to new generations. The central part of the program was a panel discussion titled “FOI and Me: Alumni Experiences and the Development of the FOI Community,” in which Sanja Hren (Atos), Leda Link (Infobip), Matija Tomašković (Evolva), and Prof. Neven Vrček, Ph.D. (FOI), shared their thoughts and experiences. The discussion covered differences between generations of students, professional challenges, and technological development, with special emphasis on artificial intelligence and its application in education and industry. The gathering continued with brunch and the well-known Varaždin “kličići” pastries, in an atmosphere of friendship, pride, and ideas for future cooperation. The Alumni FOI Brunch demonstrated that FOI is not only a higher education institution, but a vibrant intergenerational community that nurtures connections between students, professors, and alumni, encouraging mutual learning and development. ■

AMCA-FA

“Tea with a Civil Engineer,” panel workshop Career Center of the Faculty of Civil Engineering

Petra Gidak and Nika Lekić



Tea Party poster

Tea with a Civil Engineer is an informal panel discussion where students have the opportunity to hear the experiences of former students, faculty members, and employers, and to ask the panelists questions that interest them. The event is organized in collaboration between the Career Center of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. The purpose of the event is to bring students closer to personal experiences from university studies and professional life, present different career paths, and provide useful first-hand advice. The goal is to answer the question of what professors and employers expect from students and how students can develop their potential already during their studies. The idea behind Tea with a Civil Engineer stems from the desire to help students better connect with their professors, teaching assistants, and potential employers in an informal, relaxed, and friendly environment. This informal setting enables open communication, exchange of experiences, and the building of mutual trust. The event also responds to the need for advisory and motivational workshops, which students have recognized as highly beneficial for their personal and professional development.

Through this event, students gain insight into the experiences of alumni who have built successful careers after graduation and

who were once in their place, facing similar challenges and dilemmas. In this way, students gain new perspectives, encouragement, and motivation for further growth.

During the panel, participants speak about their student days—what they were like as students, what they were involved in, where they went out, and how they spent their free time. They then share experiences about their career development, how they reached their current positions, which skills helped them the most, how they chose their specific field within civil engineering, and how they envisioned their professional path. At the end of the presentations, panelists offer personal advice and messages to students, followed by an open discussion and student questions. Tea with a Civil Engineer has proven to be an exceptionally successful and well-attended workshop, regularly followed by a large number of students, as well as some Faculty staff. According to feedback, students particularly appreciate this type of panel discussion because of the relaxed atmosphere and the interesting, inspiring stories shared by the panelists. One of the most interesting panels featured Associate Professor Mislav Stepinac, Ph.D., from the Department of Structures; Damir Sokolić, MCE, from Elektrocentar Petek; and Alen Rovčanin, MBA, MSc in Civil Engineering, Director of CONUS beton Ltd. The three panelists are alumni of the Faculty of Civil Engineering who were roommates in a student dormitory during their studies. With plenty of laughter, fun, and anecdotes, they shared their university experiences and recounted their career paths marked by both ups and downs. Through their stories, they conveyed important messages about studying and career development, as well as about unity, support, and friendships that never fade.

Tea with a Civil Engineer is typically held three times during the academic year—once in the winter semester and twice in the summer semester. ■

Tea Party panelists



AMCA TTF

New leadership elected at the 22nd regular electoral assembly

Agata Vinčić and Lea Botteri

AMCA TTF – The Croatian Association of Former Students and Friends of the Faculty of Textile Technology (Almae Matris Croaticae Alumni – Technologiae Textilis Facultatis) held its 22nd regular electoral Assembly on June 10, 2025, at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Textile Technology. The ceremonial atmosphere of the Assembly was enhanced by a performance from the mixed choir Baščina of the Society of Friends of Glagolitic Script – Zagreb, conducted by Maestro Miroslav Salopek. After the opening remarks, the President, Professor Emerita Ana Marija Grancarić, Ph.D., invited those present to observe a minute of silence in memory of Professor Emeritus Ivo Soljačić, Ph.D., a doyen of textile studies who left an indelible mark on all aspects of the textile profession, including the work of AMCA TTF—from supporting its founding to actively serving on the Association’s Presidency. In her welcoming speech, the President greeted all attendees and invited distinguished guests to address the Assembly. The Dean of the Faculty of Textile Technology, Professor Anica Hursa Šajatović, Ph.D., expressed gratitude to the President of AMCA TTF for her dedicated effort and energy and wished the Association continued success. The President of the Croatian Textile Engineers Association, Mr. Ljubo Alpeza, also addressed those present, thanking the President for her devoted work and expressing support and best wishes for a successful Assembly. The President of AMCA TTF presented a report on the Association’s work for the 2021–2025 term. The report highlighted the most important activities and achievements:

- Regular meetings of the Presidency and the Commission for the AMCA TTF newsletter, dedicated to the preparation and publication of Glasnik;
- Publication of the AMCA TTF Glasnik as one of the Association’s key activities;



Ana Marija Grancarić, Anica Hursa Šajatović, Sandra Bischof

- Awards for the best student papers from the “Ferid Jakupović” fund;
- Support for the Croatian Association for Colours (HUBO), particularly in organizing and marking the International Colour Day, held annually at the Nikola Tesla Technical Museum.

Between 2021 and 2025, AMCA TTF actively participated in organizing and supporting 21 scientific-professional forums at the Faculty, as well as presentations of successful companies and Association members, regularly reported in Glasnik. The Association continued its cooperation with the umbrella organization ALUMNI UNIZG and participated in the assemblies of the Association of societies of former students of the University of Zagreb – ALUMNI UNIZG.

Following the President’s report and presentation of the financial report, the Assembly unanimously adopted both the activity report and the financial report with the plan for the next term. The Electoral Committee then requested the discharge of the previous bodies and committees of AMCA TTF, thereby opening the procedure for electing new representatives. The fol-

lowing were unanimously elected:

- President: Professor Sandra Bischof, Ph.D.
- Vice-President: Professor Anica Hursa Šajatović, Ph.D.
- Secretary: Professor Snježana Firšt Rogale, Ph.D.

Presidency members (ex officio members include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and the Dean of the Faculty): Marijan Špiljak, Ljubo Alpeza, Mladen Oljača, Professor Tanja Pušić, Ph.D., Professor Edita Vujasinović, Ph.D., Agata Vinčić, Milica Rihtarec, and Ferid Jakupović (external associate member).

Supervisory Board: Sanja Projić, Irena Valek, Polonca Grilec.

Commission for the Informative Publication: Professor Ana Sutlović, Ph.D.; Associate Professor Lea Botteri, Ph.D.; Assistant Professor Petra Krpan, Ph.D.; and Agata Vinčić, MSc Eng.

Commission for the Evaluation of Student Papers: Professor Martina Glogar, Ph.D.; Duje Kodžoman, Ph.D. and Marijana Tkalec, Ph.D.

The newly elected President, Professor Sandra Bischof, Ph.D., addressed the Assembly, thanking the former President, Professor

Emerita Ana Marija Grancarić, Ph.D., for her many years of dedicated work, enthusiasm, and vision, which shaped AMCA TTF into a recognized and respected association from its very founding. Congratulations and expressions of support were extended to the new President, whose address was met with prolonged applause.

President Bischof presented the work program and planned activities of AMCA TTF for the 2025–2029 term. In her introduction, she emphasized that the program is based on the Association's statutory goals, focused on the development of the profession, science, and social responsibility.

According to the announced program, AMCA TTF will continue to:

- Preserve the tradition of the Faculty of Textile Technology, University of Zagreb;
- Promote the Faculty's reputation nationally and internationally;
- Encourage the Faculty's development and advancement;
- Strengthen ethics and the academic community;
- Foster professional and scientific public opinion on the development of textile technology;
- Promote environmental awareness and nature conservation;
- Strengthen ties between alumni and the Faculty;
- Enhance cooperation with other institutions and promote the reputation of the textile profession and textile and clothing design.

Among planned activities, the President highlighted continued active cooperation with the Faculty through forums, Open Days, and professional workshops, as well as launching a web subpage dedicated to alumni achievements to inspire future students. Promotion of the Association will continue through online channels, social media, and professional publications, alongside the annual publication of the AMCA TTF Glasnik and cooperation with AMCA associations abroad.

Special emphasis will be placed on sustainability—educational lectures on sustainable textile technologies, encouraging the use of eco-friendly materials, and participation in environmental initiatives.

To strengthen community ties, the Association plans to organize regular member gatherings, develop an alumni database, and encourage networking. Program implementation will be monitored through regular Presidency meetings, annual reports, and member feedback.

The AMCA TTF program is focused on strengthening ties between alumni and the Faculty, promoting the profession and science, and developing socially responsible initiatives. Activities are designed to encourage continued cooperation and preserve the values the Association has nurtured for more than two decades.

At the Assembly, the work of former TTF student Diana Viljevac, MSc in Textile Design Engineering, founder and creative director of VILJEVAC DESIGN Ltd., was presented. Student awards for the 2024/2025 academic year were also presented following a competition:

- Fashion illustration: Mila Trojan – THROUGH GLASS EYES (mentor: Assistant Professor of Art Ivana Mrčela, Ph.D.);
- Artistic work related to textile design: Dora Bužić – ONVERS RAPORT (mentor: Assistant Professor of Art Lea Popinjač, Ph.D.).

As part of the program, certificates of appreciation were awarded to:

- Professor Emerita Ana Marija Grancarić, Ph.D., for founding and dedicated leadership as President of AMCA TTF (2004–2025);
- Professor Tanja Pušić, Ph.D., for her contribution as Secretary (2004–2008);
- Agata Vinčić, MSc Eng., for her contribution as Secretary (2008–2012);
- Professor Anita Tarbuk, Ph.D., for her contribution as Secretary (2012–2016);
- Associate Professor Lea Botteri, Ph.D., for her contribution as Secretary (2016–2025);
- Olga Kolobarić, for her contribution, particularly as a Presidency member (2004–2025);
- The mixed choir Baščina of the Society of Friends of Glagolitic Script – Zagreb.

The newly elected President of AMCA TTF expressed gratitude to all members for their support, understanding, and trust, emphasizing the importance of unity and

cooperation in the Association's future work. She especially thanked attendees for their participation and active involvement in this year's Assembly.

The ceremonial part of the program concluded with a performance of the student anthem *Gaudeamus Igitur*, after which participants continued socializing in a pleasant atmosphere at a reception. ■

DBS-KBF / AMAC-FTC

Celebration of the Day of the Alumni Association of the Catholic Faculty of Theology – Stepinčevo 2025 in Žumberak and Krašić

Tonči Matulić and Vanda Kraft Soić



In front of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Krašić

On Saturday, February 15, 2025, the Society of Former Students of the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Zagreb / *Almae matris alumnae et alumni Croatiae – Facultas Theologiae Catholicae* (DBS-KBF / AMAC-FTC) solemnly celebrated its Day – Stepinac Day 2025.

The gathered participants departed at 8:30 a.m. by bus from Zagreb, via Samobor and Bregana, toward Žumberak, which was shining in its white, snowy attire. The first stop was at the Roman Catholic parish of St. Michael in Kalje, where we were welcomed by the local parish priest, Monsignor Juraj Jerneić. In the parish church, he delivered an appropriate address in which he presented a brief history of the parish, as well as part of the history of the entire Žumberak region. He acquainted us with many details of present-day life in Kalje and Žumberak, strongly emphasizing the fact of the depopulation of the local population. At the end, the host presented all participants with a copy of the monograph “Mother and Two Daughters: Historical Facts about the Parishes of Žumberak, Kalje, and Oštrc.” Fellowship and conversation continued with refreshments and drinks in the parish house. On behalf of DBS-KBF, the host parish priest was awarded a special certificate of appreciation for his generous hospitality and refreshments.

The second stop was at the Parish of the Most Holy Trinity in Krašić, a place of special veneration of Blessed Alojzije Stepinac. The host there was the parish administrator, Reverend Ivan Vučak. Holy Mass was celebrated in the parish church and was presided over by the Acting Dean of the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Mario Cifrak, Ph.D., with the concelebration of six other priests. The homily was delivered by the spiritual director of DBS-KBF, Reverend Vlado Razum. At the end of the Mass, parish priest Ivan Vučak addressed the participants and recalled several important events from the life of Blessed Alojzije Stepinac, who, in 1952, was transferred to house arrest in Krašić from the prison in Lepoglava, where he re-

mained until his death on February 10, 1960. The parish priest then briefly presented the Parish of Krašić and the parish church, particularly emphasizing the veneration of Blessed Alojzije Stepinac in Krašić as an important pilgrimage destination throughout the year, especially during February. Memories of Stepinac’s stay in Krašić are preserved in the Memorial House of Blessed Alojzije Stepinac in Krašić, which contains a treasury of his personal belongings and devotional items. The participants visited the memorial house following the parish priest’s address.

The celebration continued in the parish hall, where lunch was served for all participants. On behalf of the Governing Board and all regular members of DBS-KBF, the president, Prof. Tonči Matulić, Ph.D., greeted the attendees, followed by a greeting from the president of the Association of societies of former students of the University of Zagreb – ALUMNI UNIZG, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D. The host parish priest was presented with a special certificate of appreciation for his generous hospitality and support in celebrating the Day of DBS-KBF – Stepinac Day 2020 and Stepinac Day 2025.

The celebration concluded with a group photograph in front of the statue of the Blessed in Krašić and the return to Zagreb at 5:00 p.m.

Deus lux mea est! (God is my light!) ■



Visit to the Parish of Saint Michael in Kalje

AMACIZ

35 years of the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology

Krunoslav Kovačević



Performance of the Academic Choir Vladimir Prelog

On Wednesday, May 14, 2025, the 35th Annual Assembly of AMACIZ, the first alumni association established at the University of Zagreb, was held at the temporary headquarters of the University Rectorate (SEECEL). The Assembly began with the performance of the anthems (Croatian and European) by members of the Vladimir Prelog Academic Choir, which operates within AMACIZ.

The participants of the Assembly were welcomed with opening remarks by Prof. Ante Jukić, Ph.D., Dean of FKIT, Prof. Mario Šafran, Ph.D., President of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association, and Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D.

After paying tribute to deceased members of the association, the official program of the Assembly commenced. First, Krunoslav Kovačević, Ph.D., spoke about 35 years of AMACIZ since its founding in 1990. He mentioned the first president, Prof. Branko Kunst, Ph.D., who recognized the need to establish an alumni organization to bring together former students of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology (FKIT). The primary goal of the association has always been—and remains—the networking of alumni, both those active within the faculty and those working in industry.

FKIT alumni strive to support the faculty, participate in research and development projects, contribute to teaching, and propose new educational content needed by the economy. He also mentioned individuals who played a key role in forming the Union of Alumni Associations of the University of Zagreb: former Rector Prof. Jasna Helena Mencer, Ph.D., the first president of the AMAC/AMCA Union of Associations Prof. Greta Pifat-Mrzljak, Ph.D., as well as members of the presidency, up to the present day, who were also members of AMACIZ.

This was followed by a chronological review of the development and activities of various AMACIZ sections: Professional Colloquia (since 1990), Vladimir Prelog Academic Choir (since 1991), the “AMACIZ Glasnik” (since 1992), Sports Section (since 1992), Mountaineering and Excursion Section (since 1992), Fine Arts Section (since 1993), and Innovators (since 2000). AMACIZ members have delivered hundreds of professional lectures on topics including: Science and Technology, Development of Teaching and Science, General and Analytical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Technology, Chemical Engineering, Materials, Petrochemicals and Polymers, Water Treatment, Ecology, Physics, Standardiza-

tion, and more. They have also played a significant role in the development of numerous faculties (FKIT, PBF, PMF, TF-Split, TTF, FBF, IGH, Ruđer Bošković Institute, HAZU) and industrial companies (PLIVA, CHROMOS, INA, Petrokemija, INA-OKI, KARBON, HERBOS, Construction and Chemical Industry, Brick Industry, Glass Industry).

Next, Prof. Mirela Leskovic, Ph.D., President of AMACIZ, highlighted several important anniversaries that occurred in the last ten years within the society’s sections as well as in the life of FKIT. She emphasized the importance of bringing together generations of former students and their involvement in the association’s work, as well as in FKIT teaching and projects. She especially highlighted the celebration of FKIT’s 100th anniversary and the move into the renovated building at Marulić Square 19, which had been damaged in the earthquake.

After a short musical interlude (*Va pensiero* from the opera *Nabucco*) performed by the choir, the President of AMACIZ presented awards to distinguished members: Prof. Emerita Marija Kaštelan-Macan, Krunoslav Kovačević, Ph.D., Prof. Emerita Jasna Helena Mencer, Prof. Antun Glasnović, Ph.D., Prof. Emir Hodžić, Ph.D. FKIT and its Dean, Prof. Ante Jukić, Ph.D. A special recognition for 24 years of leading the Vladimir Prelog Academic Choir was given to the conductor Iva Juras, M.Mus.

The formal part of the Assembly then followed, during which participants approved the 2024 Work Report and the 2025 Work Plan of the association. Two FKIT students also performed during the program: Ana Špišić – violin, and Dora Ljubičić – flute.

The Assembly was also attended by numerous presidents and members of other alumni associations from the Union, for whom AMACIZ served as a model and inspiration for successful work and for bringing together members for the benefit of their institutions and the University as a whole. ■

Faculty of Law

New Advisory Boards of the Faculty of Law

– Strengthening the ties between academia, industry, and the Alumni community

Ivana Karaman Jurić

In the spring of 2025, the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb established two new advisory bodies – the Alumni Council and the Faculty Council for Cooperation with the Economy and the Non-Governmental Sector. These councils represent an important step in strengthening the Faculty's collaboration with former students, the business community, public institutions, and civil society. Their activities focus on promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience, enhancing practical training, encouraging scholarships—especially for students from vulnerable groups—and strengthening the connection between the academic community and the labor market. Through these initiatives, the Faculty reaffirms its commitment to excellence in education and research in the fields of law, public administration, and social work.

Alumni Council of the Faculty of Law

The Alumni Council functions as a coordinating and advisory body of the Faculty. Its work is aimed at strengthening the activities and visibility of the Alumni community and its sections, providing recommendations to the Dean and the Faculty Council on matters related to teaching, students, and study programs, promoting student scholarships—especially for those from vulnerable groups—enhancing the connection between students and employers, and developing practical training, supporting the quality assurance system, strengthening student mobility, and improving the Faculty's and Alumni community's relationship with the public. Members of the Council are appointed by the Faculty Council upon the Dean's proposal for a term of three years. Members serve voluntarily and meet at least twice a year.

Members of the Alumni Council: Boris Šavorić (Chair), Nives Kopajtich Škrlec (Vice-Chair), Petra Baničević, Nediljka Karoglan, Damir Kontrec, Tadija Kristić, Na-



Members of the Council of the Faculty of Law for Cooperation with the Economy and the Non-Governmental Sector

talija Labavić, Iva Mišković, Pavo Novokmet, Neven Pelicarić, Nikola Popović, Katarina Radat, and Inga Vezmar Barlek.

At the inaugural session held on April 11, 2025, Dean Prof. Ivan Koprić, Ph.D., emphasized the importance of the Council as a bridge between the Faculty and its former students. The Coordinator of Alumni Community activities, Ivana Karaman Jurić, presented the work and development of the alumni network to date and highlighted the importance of strengthening communication and visibility of the Alumni community.

Faculty Council for Cooperation with the Economy and the Non-Governmental Sector

The second advisory body was established to strengthen the Faculty's strategic development through cooperation with the economy, the private sector, and civil society. Its work focuses on strategic planning and improving the Faculty's operations, developing digital, scientific-research, and educational infrastructure, attracting funds from the private sector to support research and young scientists, transferring knowledge and technology to the economy and public administration, developing and commercializing innovations in the fields of law and social services, and promoting social

responsibility and humanitarian activities of the Faculty. Members of the Council are also appointed by the Faculty Council upon the Dean's proposal for a three-year term. Members of the Council for Cooperation with the Economy and the Non-Governmental Sector: Neven Vranković (Chair), Bojan Fras (Vice-Chair), Marija Bošković Batarelo, Siniša Đuranović, Vinka Ilak, Hido Lajtman, Maja Mandić, Robert Markt, Ema Menđušić Škugor, Zvezdana Rauš-Klier, Anamarija Staničić, Mladen Sučević, and Mladen Vukmir.

The Council will place special emphasis on strengthening partnerships with the economy and civil sector, developing innovative scientific projects, and encouraging international cooperation to educate professionals who understand the contemporary needs of the market and society.

By establishing these two advisory bodies, the Faculty of Law further strengthens its role as a bridge between science, practice, and the community. Through mentorship, joint projects, and strategic cooperation with various sectors, the Faculty continues to build a tradition of excellence and responsibility toward the community, while simultaneously preparing new generations of lawyers, public officials, and specialists for the modern challenges of society. ■

Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences

Scientists, industry professionals, and alumni together in a new era of transport, logistics, and aeronautics

Mario Šafran

Organized by the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, this year's ZIRP conference – Science and Development of Transport, also known as TRANSCODE, was held from December 11 to 12 in Zagreb, under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Science and Education, and the University of Zagreb. Once again, the conference brought together renowned experts from Europe and around the world, with the goal of presenting innovative “new era” solutions based on scientific research and exploring their practical applications. Numerous topics were discussed, primarily related to the improvement of supply chain operations and the organization of transport processes.

Two keynote lectures were held, during which the invited speakers shared their insights, knowledge, and research, contributing to the development of scientific and professional thought and observations, as well as advancements in transport, logis-

tics, and aeronautics. On the first day of the conference, a panel discussion titled “The New Era of Transport & Logistics: Balancing Technology, Sustainability and Accessibility” took place, where experts in transport and logistics discussed sustainable mobility, logistics, and ways to improve competitiveness in the transport and logistics services market. During the conference, ZIRP Youth was also organized. As part of this program, among other activities, presentations of professional and scientific papers by domestic and international students and PhD candidates were held. International students participating in the ZIRP Youth program were included in the international BIP program approved by our University.

On the second day, a panel discussion titled “Women in Transport & Logistics” took place, during which prominent female managers presented their everyday challenges. The Croatian Association of Graduate Engineers of the Faculty of Transport and



Conference participants

Traffic Sciences (AMAC-FSC) was one of the co-organizers of this year's 23rd ZIRP, with our Faculty's alumni once again making a significant contribution to the development of the profession and alumni activities. Over time, the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences has educated thousands of

AMCA Toronto

In the rhythm of tradition and knowledge:
AMCA—Toronto in the period 2024/2025

Zvonimir Poljak

During 2024 and 2025, AMCA Toronto continued to carry out activities aimed at bringing together its members, promoting education, and nurturing Croatian culture and identity, with a focus on the Ontario community that forms the foundation of its work. The year 2024 began with a spring reception at Baka Gallery Café, which also served as an occasion to mark the handover of the president's duties. After a multi-year term, Krešimir Mustapić handed over the presidential role to the

new leadership while continuing to participate in the work of the Board of Directors. On this occasion, he was awarded a recognition for his long-standing contribution to the Association, and the reception was further enriched by a performance by poet Križaj, Ph.D., (interpreted by Aranka Lengyel) and academic musician Dubravko Barač, whose renditions of artistic compositions and popular songs on the guitar contributed to a warm and lively atmosphere. The central event of 2024 was the

21st Annual AMCA Toronto Dinner, held together with the traditional Christmas reception in December at Baka Gallery Café. During the ceremony, two AMCA Toronto scholarships were awarded, each valued at \$2,500. The scholarship recipient was Gloria Pejić, a third-year student at Toronto Metropolitan University, recognized for her academic achievements, work in the healthcare system, and contribution to the Croatian community. The other scholarship recipient was Marko Čelebija, a third-year student at Wilfrid Laurier University pursuing a double major in Mathematics and Chemistry with an additional focus in French, noted for his mentorship engagement and active community participation. In 2024, special recognition was also giv-

AMAC-UFZG Annual Assembly in the Spirit of Advent

Martina Kolar Billege

alumni, who represent an investment in the future, providing numerous opportunities for professional development and support for current students by former students in advancing daily activities in transport, logistics, and aeronautics.

This year's TRANSCODE/ZIRP fully met expectations, both in terms of the number of participants (over 200) and the relevance of the topics covered (123 submitted papers). The event facilitated networking among all scientific and professional stakeholders in transport, logistics, and aeronautics, with a focus on exchanging information about new technologies, knowledge, insights, and their implementation. Preparations for the next TRANSCODE 2027 Conference are already underway, and many alumni of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences eagerly anticipate future opportunities for professional knowledge exchange and further networking. ■

The Association of Graduates and Friends of the Faculty of Education, University of Zagreb (AMAC-UFZG), held its Annual Assembly on December 18, 2025. The President of the Association presented a report on the activities carried out over the past year, highlighting the growth in membership as well as the need to promote values of loyalty and commitment to the University and the Faculty, so that the alumni spirit can thrive even more strongly in the future. The Assembly was held at the Faculty of Education, with the special aim of having alumni support the valuable activities of current students of the Faculty of Education – the University of Zagreb Advent event.

For the fifth year in a row, students have organized this humanitarian event. The rich and diverse program includes performances by both professional and amateur musicians, with the University Choir Review standing out in particular. Alongside



Members of the Presidency of AMAC-UFZG

a knowledge quiz and fun activities, there was a strong sense of connection between current and former students of the Faculty of Education, enhanced by the festive atmosphere. Teachers and educators are recognized for their humanitarian efforts, and all proceeds from this charitable event will be directed to the Psychiatric Hospital for Children and Youth. ■

en to member Ana Bačić, recipient of the “Influential Croatian Women” award, while Krešimir Mustapić received a certificate of appreciation from AMCA Toronto for his long-term dedication. In 2025, a particular emphasis was placed on the AMCA Toronto Lecture Series program, designed to promote knowledge and stimulate discussion on topics related to Croatian history, cultural heritage, scientific subjects, and the diaspora. In October, Ljiljana Dobrovšak, Ph.D., delivered a lecture dedicated to the 1100th anniversary of the Croatian kingdom, providing a historical overview of the sources and traditions of commemorating this significant milestone. In November, Branka Bezić Filipović gave a lecture presenting her book Cultural Heritage and

Identity: The Diary of Vicko Tomić, based on Vicko Tomić's original diary, which contextualized the experiences of Croatian emigrants in the early 20th century within historical and cultural frameworks. These lectures attracted participants interested in Croatian history, culture, and diaspora topics, further enriching the Association's annual program.

The regular annual general meeting of AMCA Toronto was held on October 25, 2025, providing members with an opportunity to review past activities and discuss plans for the upcoming period. Through member gatherings, scholarship awards, lectures, and other activities aimed at the Croatian community in Ontario, AMCA Toronto in 2024 and 2025 continued to cre-



Scholarship recipient Gloria Pejić

ate a space for connection, collaboration, and the nurturing of shared cultural and educational interests. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Ante L. Padjen, Ph.D.

1942 – 2025

Josip Novakovich



Ante Padjen, Ph.D., was a Renaissance man: a scientist and scholar, musician, polyglot, and organizer of social activities. He loved to quote Nietzsche: “Without music, life would be a mistake.” Music was his first love, and he could have become a professional violist, but at the age of fourteen, he fell ill with tuberculosis. While recovering for nearly two years in a sanatorium, he was deeply impressed by the doctors who cared for him, which inspired him to study medicine. In 1968, he graduated from the School of Medicine at the University of Zagreb, and a year later earned a master’s degree in neurophysiology, after which he continued his studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He worked in Geneva assisting with childbirths, and after further training in pharmacology in the United States, he moved to Montreal, where he built a career as a professor of neuropharmacology. One of the things that connected us was that we had both recovered from tuberculosis in childhood. As a child, I wanted to be a violinist. Whatever I mentioned, we had in common. Before a trip to Kenya, which I had hinted at, he replied, “Oh, I’ve been there at least six

times.” In neuroscience and pharmacology, his work was integrative, and to complement Western medicine, he spent much time in India, Kenya, and China. Despite his hard work, he was a *bon vivant*—always cheerful and ready to joke. He founded the orchestra “I Medici di McGill.” Since he knew Antonio Janigra and admired the Zagreb Soloists, he modeled his string orchestra after them. In addition to numerous classical works, the orchestra performed Haydn’s last symphony, which concludes with a Croatian folk motif. The final movement, Haydn’s farewell to life, was performed in honor of Padjen, Ph.D., shortly after his death.

For Croatians in Montreal connected to the academic community, he organized Christmas gatherings at the McGill Faculty Club. I attended a few of these events, and on one occasion, he insisted that I read some of my short stories. Croatian ambassadors would usually attend these gatherings, and it was there that he introduced me to the then-ambassador Vice Skračić. Krešimir Mustapić, former president of AMCA Toronto, also gladly attended these events. In addition to being a scientific virtuoso, Ante was a social genius—bringing together many Croatians, always warmly and enthusiastically. For many years, he was the vice president of the AMAC Association of the University of Zagreb. He thought constructively, no matter the problem he faced. When my son had to end a promising career as a cellist due to repetitive strain injuries, he said, “We need to do something about this. There’s sports medicine—why shouldn’t there be medicine for musicians? Your son’s injury is similar to

tennis elbow, but also different—I’m sure we could find an effective way to treat it.” Unfortunately, my son lost interest in music, and we never pursued the idea further. Ante Padjen, Ph.D., lived to almost 84 years—a rich life, full of spirit and music—until his heart ceased to beat in the rhythm of a metronome. Yet his music lives on: the memory of him delights hundreds of graduates of McGill’s Faculty of Medicine and Croatians at home and abroad.

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Emeritus Ivo Soljačić, Ph.D.

1935 – 2025

Tanja Pušić



Professor Emeritus Ivo Soljačić, Ph.D., a respected member of the academic community, former dean and vice-dean, an excellent, ethical, and exemplary professor, outstanding mentor, distinguished scientist, promoter of engineering, lover of textiles and history, patriot, devoted to his family, and a good man, passed away on April 16, 2025, at the age of 90. He was born in Zagreb on October 28, 1935, where he completed elementary and secondary school. He graduated in 1959 from the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Technology, University of Zagreb, and completed his postgraduate studies in 1967 at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Zagreb, under the mentorship of Prof. Mladen Žerdik. He defended his dissertation in 1971 at the Faculty of Technology, University of Zagreb, under the mentorship of Prof. Karlo Weber, Ph.D. After earning his engineering degree in 1959, he was employed at the Tvornica za pamučnu industriju (Ivorpam) in Zagreb, where he worked as a production technologist until 1962, and as a finishing manager until 1963. His subsequent employment was connected with the Faculty of Technol-

ogy and the Faculty of Textile Technology, University of Zagreb, where, during his deanship—alongside numerous achievements in scientific, teaching, professional, and organizational work—he was the originator of the idea to proclaim St. Paul as the patron of the Faculty of Textile Technology. In 1996, he joined the Faculty of Textile Technology in the prestigious Association of Universities for Textiles (AUTEX). He was a member of numerous national and international professional societies and organizations. He made significant contributions to the founding of the Croatian Academy of Technical Sciences (HATZ) and to the promotion of engineering and technical sciences. As a member of the Scientific Council of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, he advocated for the advancement of technical sciences, especially in the field of textile technology. He was a long-time member of the AMCA Presidency. After retirement, his special contributions to the development and advancement of the University of Zagreb, as well as his recognized domestic and international scientific, teaching, and professional achievements, were acknowledged in 2006 with the honorary title of Professor Emeritus. His success and contributions are confirmed by the highest categories of awards, recognitions, and honors: Distinguished Member of SITTH Croatia (1978), Nikola Tesla Republican Annual Award for Scientific Work (1989), Order of Danica Hrvatska with the image of Ruđer Bošković (1996), Commemorative Medal and Distinguished Member of HIST (1998), Man of the Year Award, American Biographical Institute (1999), Distinguished

Member of the journal *Tekstil* (2002), Charter – Founding Member of the Croatian Academy of Technical Sciences (2003), “Fran Bošnjaković” Award, University of Zagreb (2005), Lifetime Achievement Award “The Power of Knowledge,” HATZ (2015). Generations of students at the Faculty of Technology and the Faculty of Textile Technology remember him as an exemplary teacher, and his prolific mentorship is reflected in the successful development of assistants and collaborators. His research and professional contributions are evident in the publication of 200 papers, 18 book chapters, six edited books, and 30 reviews, contributions, and obituaries. He is also a co-author of a patent. In his long and dedicated work, he upheld the highest academic values and ethical standards, which cannot be fully captured in existing formal charters, plaques, and awards, but deserve remembrance, emulation, and gratitude.

“Textiles are our most faithful companion in life. We are born with them, we live in them, and we die in them. In textiles, children are nurtured, the sick suffer, and the lovers rejoice. As needed, they can be soft, gentle, and pliable, adorned with the most diverse colors and patterns. Textiles hide the flaws of our bodies, yet highlight beauty, elegance, and charm. They protect our deepest secrets and intimacies and symbolize our emotions: sorrow, joy, and ceremonial moods. Through textiles, wounds are healed. They shield us from storms, cold, and protect us from heat. Within them lie our pains, joys, longings, and hopes.” – I. Soljačić

Eminent Alumni: Marina Crnoja-Ćosić, Ph.D.

Sandra Bischof

Marina Crnoja-Ćosić is an alumna of the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Textile Technology, and an active member of AMCA TTF. In 1995, she completed her studies in Textile Technology (specialization in textile chemistry) at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Technology. She earned her PhD at the Vienna University of Technology, Austria (technical chemistry / analytical chemistry) in 2000, and in the same year, she was appointed to the academic title of Assistant Professor at the Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Vienna University of Technology. In 2001, she joined Lenzing AG in Lenzing, Austria, in the development department, where she held various positions until 2020. Her dedicated and outstanding work at Lenzing was recognized with the high-ranking position of Head of Application Innovation at New Business Areas. From 2020, she worked at Kelheim Fibres GmbH in Kelheim, Germany, as Director of New Business Development and Member of the Management Team. Marina Crnoja-Ćosić is the founder and director of MCC Innovare, a strategic innovation consultancy dedicated to the practical application of innovations across the entire fiber, textile, and nonwoven materi-

als value chain. MCC Innovare represents a natural continuation of her more than two decades of experience at Lenzing AG and Kelheim Fibres GmbH, where she worked in research and development, sustainability, business, and new business development. Through MCC Innovare, Marina helps companies implement scientific research into business processes, create new market opportunities, design innovation strategies, and build bridges between different disciplines and sectors. Her mission is to help companies navigate regulatory, social, and technological changes, turning sustainability challenges into competitive advantages. With nearly 25 years of experience in fiber development and application across various sectors, Marina's work is defined by a systematic approach, considering end-user needs and the principles of reverse engineering. This approach enables the development of processes and the selection of materials with precisely defined properties to achieve targeted fiber functionalization characterized by high efficiency, sustainability, and consequently, added value for the final product.

Her long-standing experience and achievements are recognized within the European innovation ecosystem in the textile and technical textile sectors. Since 2023, she has held the leading position of President of the European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing (Textile ETP). Additionally, she is a member of the Board of the German Textile Research Council (FKT), a former board member of CIRFS (European Man-Made Fibres Association), and an observer on the Board of EURATEX (European Apparel and Textile Confederation). She is also a member of the scientific advisory boards of the Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitut (STFI e.V.) in Chemnitz and the Deutsche Institute für Textil- und Faserforschung Denkendorf (DITF). As a member of the Advisory Board of INDEX™ Geneva, the world's leading



Marina Crnoja-Ćosić

nonwoven and hygiene trade fair, she contributes to shaping the strategic direction of this important sector. Since 2023, she has been a member of the Croatian Academy of Technical Sciences (HATZ), elected as an international member for her outstanding achievements. Her vision is grounded in the belief that innovation is not a luxury — it is a necessity and a beacon of competitiveness in the global market. ■



Vedran Mornar and Marina Crnoja-Ćosić

Professor Branimir Ivan Šikić solemnly awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Zagreb

In the Hall of the University of Zagreb on November 26, 2025, an honorary doctorate was solemnly awarded to Prof. Branimir Ivan Šikić, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at Stanford University School of Medicine. The Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., awarded the honorary doctorate to Prof. Šikić in recognition of his contributions to the development of scientific research

at the University of Zagreb in the fields of biomedicine and health, the internationalization of the University of Zagreb, and its integration into the global higher education community. The honorary doctorate was awarded based on the report of the Expert Committee, which was approved by the Senate on September 23, 2025. The Expert Committee consisted of Prof. Lidija Beketić-Orešković, Ph.D., Chair of the Committee, Prof. Boris Brkljačić, Ph.D., and Prof. Emeritus Marijan Klarica. The ceremony began with an opening speech by Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., who thanked Prof. Šikić for his great support to Croatian researchers, thereby contributing to the international visibility of the University of Zagreb and the development of oncology in the Cro-

atian scientific community. The promoter, Prof. Lidija Beketić-Orešković, Ph.D., presented Prof. Šikić's scientific contributions, his achievements in teaching and professional activities, awards received, roles in national and international scientific societies, as well as his collaboration with the University of Zagreb and its School of Medicine. After completing his medical studies at

2007 to 2009, he served as an advisor to the Government of the Republic of Croatia in developing the Cancer Control Strategy of the Ministry of Health, and from 2017 to 2021, he participated as an advisor in drafting the National Cancer Plan of the Ministry of Health. He was the initiator and chief organizer of the Central European Oncology Congress (CEOC), held 16 times in Opatija from 1998 to 2022 in collaboration with the Croatian Society for Oncology, and since 2011, recognized in the "Best of ASCO" category as a licensed congress of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Prof. Šikić was entered into the book of honorary doctors and addressed the attendees:

"I thank the University of Zagreb and the Dean of the School of Medicine, Slavko Orešković, for the great honor they have bestowed upon me. I can only imagine how proud my parents, Ante and Fedora Šikić, would have been if they were still alive. They first met 85 years ago, right on the steps of the University of Zagreb's Administration building, which is currently under renovation."

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



Expert committee and Rector Lakušić

at the University of Zagreb in the fields of biomedicine and health, the internationalization of the University of Zagreb, and its integration into the global higher education community. The honorary doctorate was awarded based on the report of the Expert Committee, which was approved by the Senate on September 23, 2025. The Expert Committee consisted of Prof. Lidija Beketić-Orešković, Ph.D., Chair of the Committee, Prof. Boris Brkljačić, Ph.D., and Prof. Emeritus Marijan Klarica. The ceremony began with an opening speech by Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., who thanked Prof. Šikić for his great support to Croatian researchers, thereby contributing to the international visibility of the University of Zagreb and the development of oncology in the Cro-

atian scientific community. The promoter, Prof. Lidija Beketić-Orešković, Ph.D., presented Prof. Šikić's scientific contributions, his achievements in teaching and professional activities, awards received, roles in national and international scientific societies, as well as his collaboration with the University of Zagreb and its School of Medicine. After completing his medical studies at the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago, Prof. Šikić pursued further professional training at Georgetown University and the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. From 1979 until his retirement in 2021, he worked at Stanford University, one of the world's leading centers of science and innovation, where he built a scientific career combining fundamental and clinical research with long-standing teaching and mentoring activities. Prof. Šikić has collaborated with Croatian oncologists for many years on joint projects, congress organizations, and postdoctoral training of young Croatian oncologists in his U.S. laboratory. Prof. Šikić has also worked closely with the Croatian Society for Oncology – from



Professor Šikić has been entered into the Book of Honorary Doctors

University Lifelong Learning

Working Group for Lifelong Learning of the University of Zagreb

The University of Zagreb has developed a lifelong learning system in recognition of the growing need of employers and individuals to acquire new competencies at an academic level more quickly, but within shorter, more flexible, and accessible forms of education. These are non-formal educational programs, or lifelong learning programs, which, together with formal study programs, form a comprehensive educational offer and represent the University's response to contemporary social, economic, technological, and climate challenges. Since mid-2025, the University of Zagreb has also been a member of EUCEN (European University Continuing Education Network) — the largest international multidisciplinary association for university lifelong learning (ULL).

Lifelong Learning Programs at the University of Zagreb

Lifelong learning programs at the University and its constituent faculties are organized to acquire knowledge, skills, and competencies for personal, social, and professional development as well as labor market needs. These programs are not considered studies under the law regulating higher education and scientific activity. They may include programs with courses, lectures, seminars, workshops, classes, summer and winter schools, professional development programs, short intensive educational programs, and similar formats, including adult education and education for the elderly. Lifelong learning programs are registered in a database based on the proposal of the program holder. The Regulations on Lifelong Learning at the University of Zagreb define the types, organization, implementation, and quality management system for lifelong learning programs at the University.

An Impressive Catalogue of Educational Opportunities

The University of Zagreb and its faculties

currently offer more than 350 lifelong learning programs. This impressive number demonstrates the diversity of educational opportunities covering numerous disciplines and levels of expertise. The catalog of programs organized by faculty can be found here: <https://www.unizg.hr/o-sveucilistu/sveuciliste-jucer-danas-sutra/osiguravanje-kvalitete/cjelozivotno-obrazovanje/baza-programa-cjelozivotnog-obrazovanja/pregled-programa-czo-po-sastavniciama/>.

Professional Development and Personal Growth

Professional development programs are organized educational activities for adults wishing to enhance their professional skills and knowledge. They typically focus on specific areas of work, respond to labor market needs and technological changes, and enable faster adaptation to new job requirements. While such programs can be organized at lower educational levels, their connection to the academic community provides insights into current scientific knowledge related to a profession or specialization. Examples of faculties offering such programs include the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Faculty of Education

and Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, Faculty of Organization and Informatics, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, and Faculty of Law. Some professional development programs are also part of mandatory continuing education programs within professional chambers and other associations, e.g., programs from the School of Dental Medicine or the Faculty of Civil Engineering.

On the other hand, many lifelong learning programs are organized for personal development and curiosity. These programs focus on life skills, hobbies, and similar interests. For example, at the Faculty of Textile Technology, one can learn basic hand-weaving techniques in the "Creative Weaving as a Path to Creation" program, while at the Academy of Graphic Arts, participants can learn how to shoot and develop analog photography. Those interested in theory or languages may explore a wide range of open courses offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

International Collaboration – Opportunities for Teacher Training

International collaboration provides a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, experience, and best practices,



Participants in the lifelong learning program

Ceremonially Promoted Doctors of Science and Arts of the University of Zagreb in 2025

encourages professional growth, opens new areas of expertise, and strengthens intercultural competencies. An example is the UNIC project, in which 10 universities collaborate, including the University of Zagreb. The UNIC Centre for Teaching and Learning (<https://www.unic.eu/en/centre-teaching-and-learning>) organizes programs for acquiring teaching competencies, applying innovative methods, and developing new forms of international collaboration in education. Currently, the second cycle of the InterTeach program is being conducted, combining intercultural experience with professional development. Such experiences and programs not only expand personal skills and perspectives but also contribute to higher-quality work in one's own environment.

Trends in Lifelong Learning

According to the Third International Handbook of Lifelong Learning (2023), most trends from previous periods are expected to continue in the future, but with faster progress. Increasing digitalization, the use of online platforms, virtual classrooms, and digital tools are anticipated, enabling flexible and accessible learning regardless of location or time. There will be growing efforts to customize content and teaching methods to the individual needs of learners, so-called personalized learning pathways. Learning analytics and artificial intelligence play an important role here. The Faculty of Organization and Informatics at the University of Zagreb has a Laboratory for Learning Analytics and Academic Analytics, which brings together researchers and practitioners to apply research for improving the quality of learning and teaching. Additionally, responding to labor market needs will continue to require strong partnerships and collaboration between educational institutions, employers, and industry. Such collaboration can result in new reskilling and upskilling programs. ■



Newly awarded PhDs

Since the last issue of the Glasnik, two ceremonial promotions of Doctors of Science and Arts of the University of Zagreb were held in the large hall of SEECEL, on March 15 and September 27, 2025. At the ceremonies, the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., conferred the title of Doctor of Science and Arts on 553 new graduates of the University of Zagreb. The new Doctors of Science and Arts were warmly greeted with applause by the academic community and the fully seated audience on this ceremonial occasion. In accordance with protocol, the ceremonies began with the entrance of the doctoral candidates into the hall, followed by the Rector, Vice-Rectors, and Deans and Vice-Deans of the University of Zagreb, who, in a formal procession led by the university usher, proceeded to the stage. Congratulating the newly promoted doctors, their mentors, and families, Rector Lakušić stated that the academic community of the University of Zagreb is proud and joyful that the academic degrees of Doctor of Science and Doctor of Arts were earned at the largest, oldest, and most prestigious university in the Republic of Croatia – the University of Zagreb,

which has been operating continuously for 356 academic years. “You have taken a significant step, produced an important new scientific work, and shown that you do not shy away from the world but strive to reshape it through your own example, with great persistence and determination. In your future work, always remember that your achievements form the foundation of the progress of the community in which you operate, of our economy, and of society as a whole,” the Rector said. After the candidates, dressed in ceremonial robes, recited the oath and the Rector declared them Doctors of Science and Arts, they moved the tassel on their academic caps to the right side, symbolically entering their new and higher academic rank. The ceremonies continued with the awarding of diplomas and doctoral medals, and the inscription of the graduates in the Book of Doctors. The new Doctors of Science and Arts received both printed and digital diplomas sent to their email inboxes. Both versions of the doctoral diplomas were produced simultaneously and feature a QR code, with the digital version also being electronically signed. ■

The University of Zagreb confirmed the title of Europe's sports leader



Rector Lakušić with the award winners

At the awards ceremony of the Croatian Academic Sports Association UniSport Stars, held on February 10, 2025, the University of Zagreb once again confirmed its status as a leading academic sports institution in Europe. Thanks to an outstanding 2023/2024 season and successes at international competitions, Zagreb students won a total of 30 medals – 16 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze. A special recognition for international contribution and the promotion of academic sports was awarded to the University of Zagreb for winning 29 medals at European student championships and a world title in futsal in Shanghai. The ceremony, attended by Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D., also presented indi-

vidual awards to the most successful athletes and sports teams of the University. In the category of Best Male Athlete, Borna Pečko was honored; in the category of Best Female Athlete, Andrea Pavlović was awarded; in the category of Best Women's Team, the University of Zagreb table tennis team received a special recognition; and in the category of Best Men's Team, the university futsal team was recognized. In the category of Best Coach/Selector, the award went to Alen Jukić, under whose leadership the university futsal team became world champions. Recognition for contributions to the development and promotion of academic sports in Croatia was given to Ivan Milinović, while the award for

special contribution to the development and promotion of student sports in Croatia was presented to Prof. Hrvoje Sertić, Ph.D. A new UniSport Ambassador project was also introduced, dedicated to promoting dual careers for student-athletes. The first ambassadors highlighted were Damjan Rudež, Martin and Valent Sinković, and Tin Srbić. The ceremony brought together numerous guests from the sports, political, and academic spheres, further confirming the importance of the University of Zagreb in the development of student sports at both national and European levels. ■



Rector Lakušić receives a special recognition awarded to the University of Zagreb

Pilot project for night trains

At the Rectorate of the University of Zagreb, a pilot project for night trains was presented, which, from October 11, 2025, will connect Zagreb with Dugo Selo, Vrbovec, Ivanić-Grad, Križevci, Zaprešić, Zabok, Krapina, Jastrebarsko, Karlovac, Velika Gorica, and Sisak during the early morning hours on weekends. The project was initiated by the Student Council of the University of Zagreb, with the support of the University, the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, and HŽ Passenger Transport. Its goal is to

increase the mobility of citizens, especially students, who spend weekends in Zagreb attending cultural, social, and sports events, providing them with a safe return in the early morning hours, while also achieving a significant step toward safer, more accessible, and sustainable public transport.

In his address, Rector Stjepan Lakušić emphasized that this is an important advancement for students and citizens and an example of successful institutional cooperation. President of the Student Council Gordan Kragić stated that the goal is to provide safe and accessible night-time transportation, while State Secretary Žarko Tušek highlighted that this is a new

transport model to be tested over the next nine months. HŽPP CEO Željko Ukić added that the new lines reflect increased user mobility and the expansion of the rolling stock. Based on the Government of the Republic of Croatia's decision from January 1, 2025, a project for free transport for full-time students was introduced. The project covers unlimited train travel from the place of residence to the place of study and occasional travel within Croatia, encouraging the use of rail transport. As of January 1, 2025, approximately 23,800 full-time students are using train transport. ■

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY
source: University website

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, a series of events held at the University of Zagreb



Volunteers at the Youth Health Center

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, a series of events was held on Friday, October 10, 2025, at the University of Zagreb, jointly organized by the City of Zagreb, the Youth Health Center of the Zagreb-East Health Center, and the University of Zagreb Student Counseling Center. In the University's ceremonial hall, located in the building of the Regional Center for the Development of Entrepreneurial Competencies for Southeast European Countries – SEECEL, the 4th Zagreb Mental Health Symposium with international participation took place under the

title "Mind on the Edge of the Future." During the symposium, a series of lectures and panel discussions were held, with numerous experts from Croatia and abroad contributing their knowledge and experience to enrich the program and create space for discussion on the importance of mental health. The Student Counseling Center, which celebrated the first anniversary of its opening and work, organized an Open Day on October 10. As part of the program, students participated in guided tours to learn detailed information about the Counseling Center's work and ways to

engage in treatment, as well as to receive answers to frequently asked questions about psychological counseling. The Counseling Center staff also prepared several psychoeducational workshops on topics relevant to students, including: "Between Pixels and Soul: ChatGPT as a Mental Health Tool for the New Generation", "I Err, Therefore I Exist – Coping with Failure", "Where Do I End and You Begin? – Boundaries and Responsibilities in Relationships", "How Grief Speaks: A Journey Through Mourning with Mind and Heart" Additionally, a special program was organized within the Counseling Center. Alongside an exhibition of works by students of the Academy of Fine Arts, which became part of the Center's permanent collection, and a musical performance by students from the Academy of Music, visitors were offered additional educational content and the opportunity to learn more about the work of the Counseling Center. World Mental Health Day, observed annually on October 10, was established in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization, with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of mental health globally. ■

University School of Croatian Language and Culture opened

On Monday, June 23, 2025, the University School of Croatian Language and Culture was officially opened at SEECEL at the University of Zagreb, and classes will continue until July 18. The program, jointly organized by the University of Zagreb and the Croatian Heritage Foundation, this year brings together 27 participants from 11 European and overseas countries (Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Canada, Hungary, the Netherlands, the USA, Scotland, Turkey,

the United Kingdom). As in previous years, the group includes scholarship recipients from partner universities and institutions: the University of Pécs (Hungary), the University of Buenos Aires and the University of Rosario (Argentina), and the University of Glasgow (United Kingdom, Scotland). One scholarship was awarded by the Ministry of Demography and Migration, which, together with the Croatian Heritage Foundation, granted a scholarship to a participant from Chile based on a public call. At the opening ceremony, participants were welcomed by Vice-Rector Prof. Jurica Pavičić, Ph.D., HMI Director Mijo Marić, and the School's Head, Assoc. Prof. Igor Marko Gligorić, Ph.D. The importance of language as a

bridge connecting the Croatian diaspora and everyone interested in Croatian culture and identity was emphasized. The program includes 120 class hours of Croatian language instruction, fieldwork, and a rich cultural program organized by the Croatian Heritage Foundation. Upon passing the exams, participants receive a diploma from the University of Zagreb and up to 9 ECTS credits. Following the opening, a lecture was held by Prof. Božo Skoko, Ph.D., titled Croatia – Identity, Image, Promotion, after which the working part of the program began, during which participant groups were formed according to their level of Croatian language proficiency. ■

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