# ALUMNI MATRIS ALUMNI UNIVERSITATIS STUDIORUM ZAGRABIENSIS

ZAGRABIENSIS



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



Zagreb, December 2023

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Dear colleagues, dear alumni,

it is my pleasure to greet you on the occasion of the publication of our 32nd Glasnik, which contains numerous information about the activities carried out during 2023. The Glasnik's focus is University Week, during which events were realized that are of crucial importance for the future days of our university, and in fact you, the alumni of the university, are the force, that,

through participation in panel discussions, University Day, festivals, concerts, writing and presenting books, acts as a strong wind behind the further development of the university. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the University Administration on a successful business year and invite you to join us in additional engagement in planning and implementing activities for the benefit of our university. We are happy with the systematic activities carried out by the associations, members of the Association, and all the alumni of the university. Full information about it is provided below. We enjoyed preparing Glasnik, and we hope that you will enjoy reading the texts that are in front of you even more.

We wish you all the best for the upcoming gatherings!

On behalf of the Presidency of ALUMNI UNIZG Association

Mario Šafran





#### CONTENT **IMPRESSUM**

8

29

UNIVERSITY WEEK **ACTIVITY OF ALUMNI UNIZG** ASSOCIATION **ALUMNI STORIES** ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS - CONTRIBUTIONS EMINENT ALUMNI **UNIVERSITY NEWS** 

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#### University Week to mark the beginning of the 355th academic year



To mark the beginning of the 355<sup>th</sup> academic year, the University of Zagreb organized the University Week for the first time, which took place from November 3 to 11, 2023. As part of the University Week, a number of events were organized, most of which took place at the university's new location - in the building of the Regional Centre for Development of Entrepreneurial Competences for the Countries of Southeast Europe - SEECEL and in the premises of the Zagreb Fair. The central event was the Formal Session of the Senate, which was held on November 8.

#### Award and commemorative medals ceremony

The University Week began on Friday, November 3, with the ceremony of awarding recognition to fulltenured professors and commemorative medals to retired teachers at the University of Zagreb. The Senate of the University confirmed 91 full-tenured professors, whereby the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D., pointed out that the celebration of the University Day is the right opportunity to award these "top experts in their fields, with many years of experience in teaching, research, and professional work for many of them". "Full-tenured professors are the foundation of the academic community, and their expertise, commitment to teaching and research contribute to excellence, innovation and the development of new technologies. Their role in shaping the reputation and visibility of the University at the national and international levels is crucial," the rector said. He also expressed a special gratitude to the retired teachers of the University of Zagreb in academic year 2022/2023 pointing out that "their experience and expertise contributed to the continuity

and stability of the higher education system" and he expressed his belief that even in retirement they will continue their connection with their constituents and the university.

#### "Sveučilišna idila" concert

The following day, Saturday, November 4, a concert by the HRT Symphony Orchestra was held in the ceremonial hall of SEECEL, entitled "Sveučilišna idila". The concert was jointly performed by the HRT Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Stjepan Vuger and students and alumni of the Academy of Music and the Academy of Dramatic Arts of the University of Zagreb. Those gathered enjoyed the works of Johann Brahms, Blagoje Bersa, Giacomo Puccini, Pietro Mascagni and Leroy Anderson with the performance of soloists, violin student Tao-Yuan Hsiao at the Academy of Music, soprano Daria Auguštan and percussionist Fran Krsta Šercar. Students of the Dance Department of the Academy of Dramatic Arts of the University of Zagreb also performed as part of the program, and the concert program was led by musicologist



Gordana Krpan. Rector Stjepan Lakušić especially thanked HRT's Head of the Music Work Unit Ivana Kocelj and vice-rector for art, culture, and inter-university cooperation Prof. Jasenka Ostojić Ph.D. "Our constituents should take credit for this, large and small teaching groups of narrowly specific study programs, which provide almost all the professional and staffing needs of the cultural scene and national houses as a pledge of social and national survival," said Rector Lakušić, stressing that the students of artistic domains act as strong links to cultural institutions and are promoters of excellence that guarantee a promising future.

#### Presentation of the book "Diplomatski pečat"

The University Week program continued on Monday, November 6, when the promotion of the second edition of the book "Diplomatski pečat" by editors Goran Bandov, Jelena Perleta and Ivana Petrović was held in the National and University Library. It is a publication of the University of Zagreb, which contains more than a hundred short diplomatic micro memories that talk about various conversations and anecdotes related to the most significant foreign policy events in the Republic of Croatia in the last thirty years. This edition offers a new and authentic original contribution to the science and practice of international relations, foreign policy and contemporary world and Croatian diplomacy, paying special attention to the creation of the Croatian state, its international affirmation and defence in the Homeland War, international recognition, and Croatia's integration into the community of European nations, institutions, and values. Rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D., pointed out that the second edition was enriched with a special chapter describing the University's contribution to the achievement of key international goals of the Republic of Croatia and its role in the operation of Croatian diplomacy. The university made an unquestionable contribution to the creation of the state, starting with a clear response to the extraordinary circumstances of the war, to the use of knowledge and education for the needs of Croatian society in peacetime conditions. "This is precisely the main guiding principle of the University - to be the creator and corrective of the development



of society as a whole with its overall habitus in the scientific, cultural, artistic, religious, economic, political and other corpus," the rector said. At the official promotion, the new edition of the book was presented by Prof. Mate Granić Ph.D., former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and advisor to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia. Recalling certain turning points in Croatian foreign policy and diplomacy, in which he himself actively participated, he especially emphasized the role of the academic community of the University of Zagreb in these processes. "The largest number of diplomats and people involved in foreign policy were recruited from the academic community," said former minister Granić and expressed his satisfaction that the University is publishing this book, which will soon also have its English version.

#### Panel "The kind of university we need: University of Zagreb in the international network of knowledge and research"

The commemoration of the beginning of the 355<sup>th</sup> academic year continued on November 7 in the University building at SEECEL, with a panel in two parts entitled "The kind of university we need: The University of Zagreb in the international network of knowledge and research". The event was organized with the aim of presenting activities and exchanges of experiences among representatives of faculties and academies operating within the University of Zagreb, as well as among representatives of other higher education institutions, future and current students and employees, experts in the field of higher education and science and international cooperation. Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić, Ph.D. said that the University of Zagreb is a generator of the development of the Republic of Croatia and pointed out the importance of study programs in English and the internationalization of study programs that can attract foreign students, while emphasizing the necessity of institutional cooperation in helping to process student visas as well as security protocols for the safety of foreign students. Referring to the enrolment quotas at the university's constituents, the rector said that they "can be replaced by students coming from other countries". In the framework of the first part of the panel entitled "University in the international network of knowledge and research", which was led by the vice-rector for international and inter-institutional cooperation of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Jurica Pavičić Ph.D., the possibility of strengthening the quality of studies and research was considered, and the recognition of higher education institutions and their programs through forms of inter-institutional cooperation, international accreditation and positioning of the university in an international perspective was discussed. The head of the Independent Sector for the Coordination of European Affairs and International Cooperation of the Ministry of



Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia, Staša Skežić, participated in the panel, as well as Assoc. Prof. Marijana Serdar Ph.D. from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Zagreb, the Head of the Central Office for International Cooperation, University of Zagreb, Branka Roščić Ph.D., the Head of the Research Office of the University of Zagreb, Miroslav Rajter Ph.D., Assistant Director for Higher Education of the Agency for Science and Higher Education, Sandra Bezjak M.Sc., vice-dean for strategic partnerships and projects of the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, Assoc. Prof. Kosjenka Dumančić Ph.D., vice-dean for quality control of the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Assoc. Prof. Gordana Gregurić Gračner Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Goranka Lalić Novak Ph.D., from the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb and the Head of the Centre for German and European Studies of the University of Zagreb and the German University of Regensburg Prof. Zygfryd Eckardt Gehrman Ph.D.

In the second part of the panel entitled "The University We Need: Mobility and Quality Study Programs for the 21st Century", which was moderated by the vice-Rector for quality management and ethics of the University of Zagreb, Assoc. Prof. Anamarija Musa Ph.D., the emphasis was on the opportunities and challenges of European and international mobility as a key instrument for raising the quality of teaching and research. The director of the Agency for Mobility and EU Programs, Antonija Gladović M.Sc., took part in the panel, as well as Prof. Marijana Grbeša Ph.D. from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb, graduate student from the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, Emili Džinić and graduate student from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb, Fani Sentinella-Jerbić. The leader and one of the founders of medical studies in English at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Davor Ježek Ph.D., also participated in the panel, as well as vice-dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb, Prof. Bojan Trkulja Ph.D., Prof. Nina Begičević Redžep Ph.D.



from the Faculty of Organization and Informatics, University of Zagreb and Prof. Nevenka Čavlek Ph.D. from the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb.

Both panels ended with a short discussion by the participants and an exchange of experiences in internationalization.

#### University day in Zagreb

The central event of the University Week was the formal Session of the Senate to mark the University Day in Zagreb, held on November 8 in the ceremonial hall at the SEECEL. After the welcoming address by the rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D., the ceremony began with welcoming speeches by high-ranking guests. The first to address the gathering was the president of the Student Union of the University of Zagreb, Ivona Josipović, who, congratulating her alma mater on this great anniversary, especially emphasized the importance of cooperation between all actors in the system to improve the studies of all students. This was followed by the address of the president of the Rectors' Council of the Republic of Croatia, Prof. Dragan Ljutić Ph.D., rector of the University of Split, who emphasized the important role that the University of Zagreb played in the establishment and development of other universities in Croatia. Having said that Croatian universities are recognized internationally, he especially emphasized that higher education in the Republic of Croatia is of high quality and that further investment in that system is necessary.



Recalling the long history of the University of Zagreb and its ties with the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academician Frano Parać, vice president of HAZU, said that during the creation of the modern Croatian nation, these two institutions were "spiritual and intellectual force, which oblige us to be one today. Our two institutions should always be the voice of reason in circumstances when various irrationalities, destruction and negative energy seem to prevail." The Mayor of the City of Zagreb, Tomislav Tomašević, emphasizing that Zagreb is a university city, referred in particular to the projects that the University and the City jointly implement, primarily the Borongaj campus, which represents one of the strategic projects. "It is the duty of the City, especially through spatial planning, to adapt the urban plan in order to respond to the new needs of the University, as well as to be an investor in the construction of transport infrastructure, starting with trams and roads, and to cooperate with Croatian Railways, which is actually a plan and a need, to build an underpass towards Mandlova Street. Only then, I believe, the Borongaj campus will realize its full potential," said Mayor Tomašević. State Secretary in the Ministry of Science and Education Ivica Šušak addressed the gathering on behalf of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia and pointed out that science and education are "a public good and the key to achieving personal, social and economic development, and people are its most precious part. Therefore, investing in people and modernizing the education and science system is a strategic issue for Croatia's future and a key goal for this Government," said the State Secretary. On behalf of the President of the Croatian Parliament, the member of the parliament and the president of the Committee for Education, Science and Culture, Prof. Vesna Bedeković Ph.D., pointed out that the University of Zagreb represents more than half of the Croatian academic community, she particularly emphasized its obligation to create the intellectual capital of the Republic of Croatia. Looking back at the historical circumstances of the University's development and talking about the beginnings and development of literacy in a broader historical context, the President of the

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Sveučilište u Zagrebu
na početku 355. akademske godine
Zoran Milanović
predsjednik RepublikeHrvatske

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A word by President Zoran Milanović

Republic of Croatia, Zoran Milanović, pointed out that the University of Zagreb is an important scientific and educational institution that all other higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia should emulate. It is a "good institution that educated generations of young people who, each in their own time, built the Croatian nation", which is why it is one of our "little prides". Expressing the hope that after the earthquake reconstruction, the University will return to its historic building in the city centre, the President said that the value of the institution are not the buildings, but the people - teachers, students and everyone who contributes to its activities.

The formal session of the Senate continued with the presentation of the Rector, prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D., who spoke about development perspectives and current and future activities and initiatives of the University of Zagreb at the beginning of the 355th academic year. Among other things, the rector specifically referred to the reconstruction of buildings and infrastructure after the earthquake, the steps in the implementation of the strategic project of the Borongaj University Campus, the participation of the University in the UNIC alliance of European universities, the improvement of university evaluation indicators, work on university documents and strategies, the initiation of new initiatives in the purpose of starting new partnerships in the country and abroad, etc. Repeating his message from a year ago at the ceremonial inauguration, Rector Lakušić said that "kindness, love, trust, togetherness, students at the centre, connections with the economy, synergy, open science and modern teaching represents the University in the 21st century" and that this is precisely how the Management views the further development of the University of Zagreb. The rector particularly emphasized the activities that are currently being carried out at the University: the completion of the University's Digital Transformation Strategy for the period from 2023 to 2030, the formation of the Economic Council of the University of Zagreb, as well as the University's Alumni Council, further work on the improvement of the University's evaluation indicators (measures with key activities



have been developed), complete renovation of the 5th and 6th pavilions in SD Stjepan Radić (a building permit was obtained for the implementation of the reconstruction), preparation of project-technical documentation for new student dormitories on Borongaj (1500 beds), which was started at the same time as the preparation project and technical documentation for the new multifunctional sports hall in Borongaj, etc. Since the strength of the university rests on the strength of our employees and alumni, the annual awards of the University of Zagreb were presented for academic year 2022/2023. The Fran Bošnjaković award was given to Prof. Hrvoje Kušić Ph.D. from the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology and Prof. Igor Kuzle Ph.D. from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing. The Andrija Mohorovičić award was given to Prof. Dubravka Matković-Čalogović Ph.D. and Prof. Dario Vretenar Ph.D. from the Faculty of Science. The Andrija Stampar award at the formal session of the Senate was awarded to Prof. Ivo Alajbeg Ph.D. from the School of Dental Medicine, Prof. Karmela Barišić Ph.D. from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biotechnology, Prof. Petar Džaja Ph.D. from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Prof. Davor Ježek Ph.D. from the School of Medicine and Prof. Milovan Kubat Ph.D. from the School of Medicine. The Ars summa Universitatis award was given to Assoc. Art. Ana Božičević from the Academy of Fine Arts, Assoc. Prof. Art. Andreja Jeličić from the Academy of Dramatic Arts, Prof. Art. Berislav Šipuš from the Academy of Music and Prof. Art. Renata Waldgoni from the Faculty of Architecture. The annual Praemium biotechnicum award was given to Prof. Ina Čurik Ph.D. from the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Kata Galić Ph.D. from the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology and Prof. Vladimir Jambreković Ph.D. from the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology. The Viktor Žmegač award was given to Prof. Cvijeta Pavlović Ph.D. from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Alica Wertheimer Baletić award was given to Prof. Tomislav Hernaus Ph.D. from the Faculty of Economics and Business. During the session, the rector also gave special awards to students and professors who contributed to the activities of the University in the past academic year. Special awards were given to: Ana Šiškov, student of the Academy of Dramatic Arts, Josip Rešetar, student of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, Matej Fabijanić, student of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Alegra Vezjak Fluksi, student of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Tara Knežević, student of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture , Frano Vidaković, student of the Faculty of Science, Domagoj Mrnjavčić, student of the Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, Tena Risek and Matea Raljević, students of the Faculty

of Textile Technology and Marija Soldo, student of the Teacher Education Faculty. For the successful management of the university's interdisciplinary specialist study Intellectual Property and for promoting the University of Zagreb in the context of intellectual property, Prof. Romana Matanovac Vučković Ph.D. was given an award. Recognition for long-term leadership of the Committee for Doctoral Studies of the University of Zagreb, which contributed to raising the quality of doctoral studies, was awarded by the rector to Prof. Vesna Tomašić Ph.D. At the session, a special recognition for the highest achievements in the field of university law, nomotechnics and legal acts was awarded to the Committee for Statutory Issues of the University of Zagreb, while the Sports Office of the University of Zagreb was recognized for its outstanding contribution to the development of sports at the University and the achievement of top sports results in 2022. The program of the formal session of the Senate continued with the awarding of honorary titles of professor emeritus. 15 professors of the University of Zagreb received honorary degrees: prof. Damir Boras Ph.D., Rector of the University of Zagreb in 2014-2018 and 2018-2022, Prof. Mladen Božičević Ph.D. (Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering), Prof. Asja Čelebić Ph.D. (University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine), Prof. Marijan Herak Ph.D. (Faculty of Science), Prof. Mirjana Matijević Sokol Ph.D. (Faculty of Croatian Studies), Prof. Nenad Moačanin Ph.D. (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences), Prof. Vladimir Mrljak Ph.D. (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine), Prof. Vladimir Mrša Ph.D. (Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology), Prof. Żeljko Potočnjak Ph.D. (Faculty of Law), Prof. Marko Pranjić Ph.D. (Faculty of Croatian Studies), Prof. Vedrana Spajić-Vrkaš Ph.D. (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences), Prof. Željko Štih Ph.D. (Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing), Prof. Tomo Udiljak Ph.D. (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture), Prof. Art. Maja Rodica Virag (Academy of Dramatic Art) and Prof. Milena Žic-Fuchs Ph.D. (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences). The formal session of the Senate ended with the academic anthem Gaudeamus igitur.



#### 28th University of Zagreb Fair

The University Week program continued with the 28th University of Zagreb Fair, which was held in the Congress Centre of the Zagreb Fair from November 9 to 11. It is the oldest event of its kind in the Republic of Croatia, organized by the University in order to inform high school seniors, students and all interested parties about study programs and enrolment requirements, as well as all the information needed to decide on their future profession. As part of the Fair, the components of the University of Zagreb - 31 faculties and 3 art academies - were presented to the visitors. The program of the Fair consisted of various events - presentation of components at the fair areas in the Congress Hall, short talks with students and representatives of faculties and academies in the Winter Garden hall, presentation of various activities carried out at the university in the field of sports in the Cres hall, and other activities. The fair began with the welcoming speeches by the guests, the president of the Student Union of the University of Zagreb Ivona Josipović, the representative of the Zagreb Fair Zoran Ušurić, the representatives of the main sponsors of the Fair - representatives of OTP bank Nikola Mikša and Zagrebačka banka Ivan Hećimović, as well as the speech by Rector Stjepan Lakušić who pointed out that "being an academic citizen means getting the opportunity to change the world, to take responsibility for building a better environment and society in which you live. Studying is the challenge of acquiring new knowledge and discovering new and wonderful worlds of science and art". He added that the university is based on openness, interdisciplinarity, respect for diversity and promotion of critical thinking. After the opening ceremony, the exhibition continued with a round table entitled "Occupations of the Future". The conversation was led by Sunčica Findak, and together with Rector Prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D., the representative of the Student Union of the University of Zagreb Katja Popović, member of the Management Board and vice-president of human resources at Infobip Marin Bezić, head of employment at Rimac Technology and





Rimac Group Ela Palić, director of Learning and Human Resources Development at Zagrebačka banka Tanja Pavlic Bilić and Senior Director of Human Resources and Corporate Affairs at OTP bank Szabolcs Annus participated in the discussion. During the panel, the participants talked about future occupations for which there will be great interest in the labour market in the perspective of the next decade. They discussed the development of artificial intelligence and how it affects the labour market. The participants of the Round Table discussed the competences and knowledge that future employees will need, emphasizing the importance of employee adaptability and flexibility. The panellists pointed out that it is important for future students to choose the field of study they are interested in and not to be so focused at this stage on what they will do after completing their studies. "Your current belief about exactly what you're going to do probably won't come true. The labour market is changing rapidly, the world around us is changing, and you will have to get used to the fact that for professional advancement in the job you are interested in, constant learning and work is necessary." The discussion concluded with an emphasis on the importance of continuous learning and education for the success of employees in developing their own careers. As part of the cooperation between the University of Zagreb and secondary schools, the programs of the Fair were followed by high school students from all over Croatia, so over 30,000 visitors visited the Fair over the course of three days. At the closing ceremony held on November 11, awards were given to the most successful participants of the 28th Fair of the University of Zagreb. The Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology of the University of Zagreb received recognition for its contribution to the education and information of visitors. The Faculty of Teacher Education of the University of Zagreb was recognized for its communicativeness and responsiveness. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb received the award for the best-decorated exhibition space. The Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences of the University of Zagreb was given an award for innovation in presentation. The Faculty

of Agriculture received an award for the best promotional materials at the Fair. The Student Union of the University of Zagreb and the Student Center in Zagreb received recognition for their outstanding contribution to the organization of the Fair. This year, the University of Zagreb made a unified presentation at Interliber international book fair with the aim of making the public aware of the University's publishing activities.

#### The strategy of ZUK Borongaj presented

On Friday, November 10, the strategy of University Campus Borongaj was presented in the University building at SEECEL. This is one of the strategic goals set out by the rector and the administration of the University of Zagreb. Since 2008, when this capital university project was launched, its implementation was stopped, but the project was intensified again last year. In accordance with the strategy, the Borongaj campus will be conceived as a scientific and research hub with the function of technology transfer and innovation in educational processes at the University of Zagreb. The project will be realized through the so-called Triple Helix model in which the key is cooperation among three groups of actors - the state and the City of Zagreb, the economy, and the university. During the meeting, a round table entitled The Role of University Campus Borongaj in the System of Higher Education, Science and Research in Croatia was held. The conference program began with an introductory lecture by the rector of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D. under the name University Campus Borongaj - the most important strategic project of the Republic of Croatia. During his lecture, the rector specifically referred to the traffic connection of the Borongaj Campus, he presented a dynamic plan for the implementation of the project-technical documentation of the traffic connection, and he spoke about the anticipated deadlines for the implementation of individual projects. Having said that the University of Zagreb with about 69,000 students, which is 52 percent of all the students in the Republic of Croatia, with a total of about 5,500 employees and with 65 percent of scientific production in the Republic of Croatia, which is realized through 34 components, represents the institution with the largest number of domestic and international scientific projects and with the largest number of contracts with the economy related to professional affairs, as well as innovations (approximately 40 per year), the rector emphasized that it surely represents a huge potential that can make great strides, kickstart Croatia's economy and bring positive changes to our society. Presenting the stages of the ZUK Borongaj project, the rector emphasized that the first step in its realization is certainly the traffic connection Borongaj has with the rest of the city. "Currently, we have

three projects that already have building permits and they could start with implementation and investment right away. When we talk about traffic infrastructure, student dormitories and a sports hall for students, as well as centres, project and technical documentation needs to be created for them." Although their conceptual solution is ready, it will certainly take between a year and a half to two years to complete the creation of the documentation. It is expected that the construction of a pedestrian overpass could be realized in December 2024 through the HŽ Infrastructure project, while the preparation of project-technical documentation for roads with tram lines and communal infrastructure, which is realized with the City of Zagreb, could be completed during 2025. Their construction, as well as the construction of a road west of the campus, could be completed in two to three years.



The vice-rector for innovation, technology transfer and cooperation with the economy of the University of Zagreb, Prof. Tomislav Josip Mlinarić Ph.D. presented the strategy of ZUK Borongaj, referring to the campus's contribution to Croatian economic and social development. Pointing out that over the past year, the new Administration of the University of Zagreb has worked intensively on this Strategy, the vice-rector said that the document is based on 12 strategic areas in which the activities and programs on the campus will be conceptually developed. They represent the nucleus for four so-called "idea factories" that "will promote, affirm and produce projects that will be realized through innovation and technology transfer and then used for further improvement of the entire system."

Construction and Spatial Planning represents the first unit that will focus on several topics in the field of earthquake engineering, BIM modelling, artificial (VR) and augmented (AR) reality in construction, passive houses and almost zero energy buildings, modern building materials, modern transport infrastructure and the resistance of buildings to climate change. The second unit is focused on transport and mobility, and in addition to topics related to transport, it will cover, for

example, ITS, logistics and aeronautics. The third unit will focus on industry and energy and topics such as renewable energy, health, digitization, agriculture and food, and energy-intensive industry. Robotics and artificial intelligence represent the fourth unit which, among other things, will focus on robotic learning, humanoid, mobile and medical robotics, autonomous and collaborative systems, artificial intelligence, etc.

The former Minister of Science and Education, Prof. Dragan Primorac Ph.D., addressed the gathering via video message and recalled the launch of the ZUK Borongaj project. "This is one of the most important strategic development projects in the history of the University of Zagreb, but also of the Republic of Croatia." The meeting was followed by a round table led by Željko Kardum. "Today, connecting science, the business world and public services is inevitable and a platform for economic development. Zagreb is extremely lucky to have one perfect location left, namely the former Borongaj Barracks, where an innovation concept can be developed. Each faculty, in addition to teaching, also has innovation, technology and development functions, which can be unified on the Borongaj campus. In this sense, the campus will certainly be a place where the nucleus of something new will be created," said Prof. Mladen Vedriš Ph.D. Pointing out that over the years there were some other priorities at the national level and that there was political will for the development of campuses in other cities, he expressed satisfaction that the ZUK Borongaj project is being revived again. The President of the Management Board of PLIVA Hrvatska, Mihael Furjan, said that 80 percent of the business sector's investments in the future will be focused on innovative products. Given that innovation and competitiveness will be the main determinants of the company's operations, investment in talent will be especially important. Member of the Board of Končar p.l.c. Ivan Bahun pointed out that universities should not be exclusively focused on economic interests, the market and cooperation with the economy, but it is necessary to look at the general social interest.

Member of the Management Board of the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Alan Herjavec, announced the establishment of a risk capital fund that will be used for technology transfer, which will be jointly launched by HBOR and the Slovenian Development Bank with the European Investment Fund. About 50 million euros will be provided within the fund for research and development projects, primarily for those coming from Croatian and Slovenian universities. The development of University Campus Borongaj will contribute to the recognition of the University of Zagreb in the European and global higher education and research space, but at the same time it will significantly contribute to the further economic and social development of the Republic of Croatia as a whole.

#### Freshman party - BrutZGa

The University Week program ended with the university's freshman party on Saturday, November 11, in pavilion 10a at the Zagreb Fair. The freshman party was organized by the University of Zagreb as a gift to its students. This event brought together students from all components of the University of Zagreb, and more than 5,000 free tickets were distributed. The first 355 students exchanged their ticket for a free drink, and the rest of the evening the students were entertained with a musical program by Bruno Rački and the band Valovi, DJ Hrvoje and DJ Brothers.



Source of information: University website

#### ALUMNI UNIZG Association - Assembly meeting

On Monday, July 3, 2023, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing of the University of Zagreb hosted an Assembly of Association of societies of former students of the University of Zagreb - ALUMNI UNIZG, during which another alumni event was held entitled "How to strengthen the engagement of our alumni?". At the beginning of the event, the president of the Association, Prof. Mario Šafran Ph.D. and the host Prof. Stjepan Bogdan Ph.D., vice dean for research

and innovation at FER addressed the gathered with welcoming words. The vice dean pointed out that the faculty recognized the importance of cooperation with former students, which is why activities were launched with the aim of including alumni in the "life" of the faculty. In the working part of the session, Prof. Mario Šafran Ph.D. submitted the Report on the activities of the Presidency of the Association for the period from July 2022 to July 2023, in which he reported on the

realized activities of the Association in the past year. He emphasized the continuity of the Alumni story in the reporting period, the publication of yet another, the 31<sup>st</sup> issue of Glasnik in Croatian and English language, and the continuation of the alumni e-address assignment project. He pointed out that the Association, through its activities, continuously provides support to the constituents of the University as well as to alumni associations in the country and abroad.

#### Alumni story: How to strengthen the engagement of our alumni?



Prof. Ivan Damjanov Ph.D. and Prof. Steven Živko Pavletić Ph.D., alumni of the School of Medicine and Mladen Pejković, alumnus of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, participated in this Alumni story, held as a part of the Assembly of ALUMNI UNIZG Association. The conversation was moderated by Prof. Mario Šafran Ph.D. At the beginning of the conversation, Mladen Pejković, president of the FER Alumni Board, highlighted the priority initiatives of the Board aimed at promoting FER brand internationally, finding partners for projects and increasing the number of foreign students, establishing a foundation for needy and successful students, attracting foreign students, and developing mentoring programs for the personal development of students, doctoral students, and researchers. "We want to include as many former FER members as possible in the alumni community, and by gathering alumni we want to send a message about the benefits they can get through cooperation with the faculty," he said. Prof. Ivan Damjanov Ph.D., one of the founders of CROMed - USA (Croatian - American Medical Alumni), an association that gathers alumni from Croatian medical faculties from Zagreb, Rijeka,

Osijek, and Split, said that their primary mission is to support high-quality medical education in Croatia. As part of the Association, a fund named "Marin Nola Pathology Scholarship" was founded, and the purpose of the award is to provide an opportunity for young pathologists to receive subspecialty training - a "mini scholarship" at a pathology centre of excellence in the USA. "It is necessary to make joint efforts and establish a community of professors and the University and motivate young people to get involved. Everything can be learned and remembered, except motivation," he said. Prof. Steven Živko Pavletić Ph.D., during his career in the USA, devoted himself to strengthening cooperation with Croatia through the organization of professional and scientific meetings, organization of study stays in the USA and mentoring younger medical colleagues. "Investment in education is the cheapest and best investment with the most long-term consequences," he pointed out. He is a member and one of the initiators of ACAP - the Association of Croatian American Professionals, which has over 2,500 experts from the business and academic community and whose goal is to connect American and Croatian professionals from the USA, Croatia and the world on various business projects and initiatives. In the conversation, he also referred to the specifics of alumni philosophy and activities in Anglo-Saxon countries compared to Western countries. At the end of the conversation, the guests recalled their student days, stressing the importance of acquiring basic knowledge and skills that give the possibility of further upgrading according to the needs and changes in the labour market. Prof. Mario Šafran Ph.D. thanked the guests for the interesting and stimulating conversation, and the festive meeting ended with the performance of the academic anthem Gaudeamus igitur.

# Alumni as the strength of the University - the success story of the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb

At the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, on Thursday, March 9, 2023, another alumni story was held under the title "Alumni as

the strength of the University - the success story of the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb". The event was organized to commemorate



100 years of dental education in Croatia, 60 years of independence of the School of Dental Medicine and 10 years of activity of the Association AMA SFZG (Association of former students and friends of the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb). The guests of the conversation were prominent alumni of the school: Prof. Zrinka Tarle Ph.D., Dean Prof. Andrija Bošnjak Ph.D., chief medical director of Adria Dental Group, Prof. Hrvoje Brkić Ph.D., president of the Association AMA SFZG and Assis. Anja Ivica, Ph.D., postdoctoral student. The conversation was moderated by Prof. Ivan Alajbeg Ph.D., professor at School of Dental Medicine and a member of the Presidency of the UNIZG ALUMNI Association. At the beginning, Dean Zrinka Tarle greeted the president of the UNIZG ALUMNI Association, Prof. Mario Šafran Ph.D., former rector of the University of Zagreb and president of the UNIZG ALUMNI Association for two terms, Prof. emer. Helena Jasna Mencer, vice-rector for students, undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Zagreb, Prof. Boris Brkljačić Ph.D., as well as the other present alumni, welcoming them. Then the president of the Association, Prof. Mario Šafran Ph.D. referred to the activities successfully carried out by School of Dental Medicine and the AMA SFZG Association in the form of attracting and gathering former students, thereby promoting the true alumni philosophy. Prof. Boris Brkljačić Ph.D., on behalf of the rector of the University of Zagreb, prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D., greeted the gathering saying that the University Administration wholeheartedly supports such commendable events aimed at maintaining ties and encouraging cooperation with former students of the University. During the conversation, Prof. Zrinka Tarle Ph.D. spoke about the beginnings of dental education in Croatia, pointing out that over 6,600 Doctors of Dental Medicine graduated from the School of Dental Medicine in Zagreb in the last 60 years. "The School of Dental Medicine in Zagreb nurtured all other dental schools in Croatia,

especially in Rijeka and Split, and greatly helped the School in Mostar," said Prof. Tarle. She emphasized that former students of the School of Dental Medicine participate in the life, development and education of doctors of dental medicine in several ways, and one of them is student professional practice, through which they transfer knowledge and experience from everyday work to students. "In my uninterrupted 36 years at the School of Dental Medicine, I am always proud to point out that I am happy and honoured that I graduated from the School of Dental Medicine in Zagreb," she pointed out. Prof. Hrvoje Brkić Ph.D. referred to the activities of the AMA SFZG Association, which is characterized by systematic work and dedication aimed at attracting, connecting, and gathering former students. "We inform our alumni about the school's activities and projects through a database of more than 4,000 e-mail addresses of former students from Croatia and the world, as well as the School of Dental Medicine Newsletter. Every year, we host two generations of former students at the school, when they reminisce about the beautiful and carefree times of their studies through photos and shared memories," he concluded. Asst. Anja Ivica Ph.D., through interesting anecdotes, compared the experience of studying in Croatia with the subsequent doctoral training at the University of Zurich. "Going to Switzerland represented a kind of challenge for me, but also a good experience, not only from a scientific but also from a personal perspective. At first, I thought that students in Switzerland were better, but very quickly I realized that in terms of acquired knowledge, we are not behind them at all," she said. When asked about the success and adaptability of dental medicine graduates to new work processes and learning new technologies, Prof. Andrija Bošnjak Ph.D. shared experiences from practice that show that during their studies students are very well prepared to work in such a very intensive work environment. Adria Dental Group employs over 450 employees, and most of the doctors within the Group are former students of the School of Dental Medicine in Zagreb. "Some of the clinics within our Group have a developed mentoring system that very well imitates student exercises, and since I come into contact with different generations of students, the common thread that runs through is collegiality. In the future, we plan to expand cooperation with the school and through continuous education ensure the same standard of service to patients," he pointed out. Then followed interesting comments and encouraging messages from the audience, and the gathering continued with an appropriate reception organized by the School of Dental Medicine.

Paula Pavletić and Petra Lojen

# Alumni story: Synergy of science and art towards standard Croatian alphabet



In the auditorium of the University of Zagreb on Thursday, May 11, 2023, an Alumni story was held: Through the synergy of science and art towards the standard Croatian alphabet, in which prominent alumni of the University of Zagreb participated. The guests of the conversation were: Ante Bežen Ph.D., ret. professor at the Faculty of Teacher Education; Željko Jozić Ph.D., director of the Institute for Croatian Language and Linguistics and Prof. Art. Siniša Reberski from the Academy of Fine Arts. The conversation was moderated by Assis. Prof. Martina Kolar Billege Ph.D. from the Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb. At the beginning, the president of the UNIZG ALUMNI Association Prof. Mario Šafran Ph.D. greeted the crowd and thanked the guests for their response and participation in another interesting alumni story. The participants, along with their personal alumni stories, presented a common story about multidisciplinary cooperation, the result of which became an important element of the standard Croatian language. As part of the mentioned project, based

on scientific and artistic research, school letters were designed that were accepted and included in the Croatian orthography of the Institute for Croatian Language and Linguistics in 2013. These are school letters that were standardized in the Croatian language for the first time in history. In 2007, Prof. Ante Bežen Ph.D. raised the issue of language and art standards in initial reading and writing in the Croatian language and initiated a project in which, alongside him, an interdisciplinary team of experts, scientists and artists participated: Prof. Art. Siniša Reberski, Assis. Prof. Martina Kolar Billege Ph.D., prof. Jadranka Nemeth-Jajić Ph.D., Prof. Vesna Grahovac-Pražić Ph.D., Nada Lagumdžija M.Sc., and Prof. Art. Vladimir Kuharić. At the time of the completion of the project, the Institute for the Croatian Language and Linguistics, headed by the director Željko Jozić Ph.D., completed the Croatian orthography, so these circumstances made it possible for the letters to be included in the normative literature of the Croatian standard language.

Martina Kolar Billege

Recordings of Alumni stories of the ALUMNI UNIZG Association can be viewed on the YouTube channel of the University of Zagreb: <u>UniZg – YouTube</u>.

#### **AMAC-Alumni FAZ**

#### Excursion to Ban Josip Jelačić testing ground – Hunting ground Prolom, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture

The association of former students and friends of the Faculty of Agriculture AMAC-Alumni FAZ, in cooperation with the UNIZG ALUMNI Association and the Faculty of Agriculture, on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, organized an excursion to Ban Josip Jelačić's testing ground as part of the scientific and educational training ground in the area of the state open hunting ground "PROLOM" of the Faculty of Agriculture located in the area of the Sisak-Moslavina County. The testing ground includes the extreme western slopes and parts of the Zrinska gora massif, and it got its name from the Prolom forest complex. The basic purpose of the hunting grounds is breeding, protection, hunting and use of game, while preserving the biological diversity of the entire area, preserving, and improving habitats, and protecting the human environment. The specific goal of the testing ground is to carry out the breeding, protection, hunting and use of healthy, resistant, and normally developed game in a natural, open area, of medium to high trophy value, i.e. roe deer, wild boar, and red deer, which live in significant numbers throughout the year in the area hunting grounds. The trip started with the morning gathering of about twenty alumni who left the Faculty of Agriculture and headed to Glina by the Faculty bus. At the destination, the alumni were welcomed by the staff of the testing

ground, and we were all warmly welcomed. The hosts organized a tour of the hunting grounds by vehicle and a visit to all the checkpoints inside the hunting grounds, as well as the harvesting of wild medicinal and herbal plants. This was followed by a sport gathering of alumni, which resulted in new acquaintances and the exchange of contacts. The joint lunch, hunter stew made from meat from the hunting grounds, was prepared by the previous president of AMAC-Alumni FAZ, prof. Zlatko Janječić Ph.D. The guests were treated to premium wine and juices by the sponsors. The gathering was pleasant, fun, and educational, and we can conclude with the wish that as many of our alumni as possible join us in future gatherings.



Ana Matin

#### AMCA-ERF Activities in 2023

The activities of the University of Zagreb Croatian Association of Graduate Students of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation (AMCA-ERF) in 2023 were marked by the organization of the Regular Assembly of AMCA-ERF for 2022, a review of the 10<sup>th</sup> ERFCON International Scientific Conference, the successes of ERF students and teachers and memories of our deceased teachers and alumni.

#### Regular assembly

This year, in February, the Regular Assembly of AMCA ERF was held, again in a hybrid model, live at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation and virtually, via the Teams platform. President of the Association Prof. Zrinjka Stančić Ph.D. submitted the report on the Association's work program in 2022 and the financial report. The members of

the Assembly who were present gave an overview of the implementation of activities with special emphasis on the visibility of our Association and even stronger strengthening of existing and future membership. In the final part of the Assembly, the proposal of the AMCA-ERF Work Program in 2023 and the annual membership fee in the amount of 10 euros were unanimously confirmed. At the beginning of the Assembly, Prof. Lelia Kiš Glavaš Ph.D. held an invited lecture entitled "Inclusion of students with disabilities in higher education in the Republic of Croatia: what, how and where (?)". In an interesting presentation, Professor Kiš Glavaš looked at the very beginnings and the reasons for the development of the support system for students with disabilities in higher education. She particularly emphasized the tools that were created to support students with disabilities as part of the Tempus project "EduQuality", which answered the question about the sustainability of their application. Based on her personal professional experience in creating and providing support to students with disabilities, as well as the results of scientific research on the subject, Professor Kiš Glavaš discussed the current problems and strengths that exist in the higher education system and gave clear guidelines for future action.

#### 10th international scientific meeting ERFCON

During the last twenty years, the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation of the University of Zagreb has continuously been organizing international scientific meetings in the fields of inclusive education and rehabilitation, speech therapy, social pedagogy, and criminology. The jubilee, tenth international scientific meeting "Research in educational and rehabilitation sciences" took place in Zagreb from July 5 to 7, 2023. During the three days of its duration in a hybrid model, live in the Dubrovnik hotel and virtually via the ZOOM platform, it gathered leading Croatian and European experts. The international scientific meeting was held under the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Zoran Milanović, and in partnership with the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Medical Faculty in Novi Sad and the Faculty of Teacher Education of the University of Primorska from Koper. The meeting took place in the year after the 60th anniversary of our faculty. Before the official opening of ERFCON, two interesting preconferences were held: 1) "Assistive technology in education and rehabilitation" organized by the Department of Motor Disorders, Chronic Diseases and Art Therapy of the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation and the Laboratory for Assistive Technology of the home Faculty, 2 ) "Systematic Planning of Preventive Investments" organized by the Behavioural Disorders Department of the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation and the Laboratory for Preventive Research. During the three days at ERFCON, three plenary lectures were held, Blaženka Brozović from the Speech Therapy Department of ERF, Deborah Chen Pichler from Gallaudet University, Maria Anna Donati from

10<sup>th</sup> International Conference:
Research in Education
and Rehabilitation Sciences

ERECON

Zagreb

Universita Degli Studi Firenze and Mateja Vuk from the University of Hertfordshire, promotion of the book "Rights and services in the social care system for children with developmental disabilities and their families" by Marina Milić Babić, Marina Hranj Zeko and Zdravka Leutar, three symposia, 277 oral presentations, four workshops and 276 poster presentations. On the third day of ERFCON, a poster depicting the 12 years of activity of our AMCA was presented under the name "Croatian Association of Graduate Students of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation AMCA-ERF" by the author team Zrinjka Stančić, Ana Katušić, Silvana Bilonić and Klara Matejčić.

# Successes of ERF students and teachers Rector's awards for the academic year 2022/2023

Newly elected rector, Prof. Stjepan Lakušić Ph.D., on the proposal of the Rector's Award Committee, awarded a total of 100 papers in five categories: 59 papers in the category for individual scientific and artistic work, 15 in the category for team scientific and artistic work, 7 in the category for "large" team scientific and artistic work, 2 in the category for special competitive successes of individuals or teams and 17 papers in the category for socially useful work in the academic and wider community. The students of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation of the University of Zagreb are the winners of the Rector's Award in the category 1) Award for individual scientific and artistic work, for the field of social sciences - the award was given to the students of the graduate study in Educational Rehabilitation Bruna Bašić and Laura Bilandžić for the paper entitled "Assistive technology and quality of life of young people with muscular dystrophy" and the students of the graduate study in Educational Rehabilitation Paula Mavretić and Petra Bračić for the paper entitled "The influence of individualized educational-rehabilitation and



nutritional guidelines on the quality of the feeding process and the encouragement of desirable eating habits in children with Down syndrome". In category 2) Award for team scientific and artistic work, for the artistic field, the award was given to Karla Marinko and Marta Skejo, students of the Graduate Study of Speech Therapy, for the documentary film "Hear me out" about young people associated with hearing loss. In category 3) Award for socially useful work in the academic and wider community, for the field of social sciences, the award was given to students of the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies in Speech Therapy Marija Magdalena Budimir, Ana Milat, Elena Miletić, Lara Mosić, Lea Radulović and Fani Šupić for the project under entitled "Let me finish".

#### ■ Interliber and book promotion

At this year's Interliber, which was traditionally held at the Zagreb Fair from November 7 to 12, 2023, the first book by a young scientist from the Department of Speech Therapy of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation of the University of Zagreb Assoc. Prof. Maja Cepanec Ph.D. was presented at a promotion organized by the Sveučilišna knjiga and Naklada Slap under the title "Early communication development". The promotion attracted the attention of many experts and students. The book summarizes available data on early communication development, so that it is available in one place to anyone who needs to analyse and understand early communication. The book is intended not only for students of speech therapy, but also for students of rehabilitation, students of the post-graduate specialist study "Early intervention in educational rehabilitation", other experts and scientists (but also

parents) who deal with early development in order to better understand the developmental journey that every child goes through.

#### Remembering our alumni

In 2023, Prof. Dubravka Levandovski Ph.D., prominent professor at our faculty, left us forever. Professor Levandovski graduated in 1966 and belongs to the first generations of alumni of our faculty. In the academic year 1966/67, at the then-High School of Defectology, she was chosen an assistant, and since then, for thirty years, until her retirement in 1996, Professor Levandovski left an indelible mark on her activities. She participated in a number of scientific research projects as an active and independent researcher, published a large number of scientific papers, 30 scientific and 19 expert papers, 4 books and book chapters. For many years, Professor Levandovski's interest was in the field of development of educational and social integration, the development of measuring instruments and the improvement of the environment for the inclusion of children and students in regular primary and secondary schools. At the Faculty, we organized a commemoration to which we invited alumni, admirers of her work.

In September 2023, Mr. Gordan Hosni-OGI, social pedagogue, left us forever, and in August of the same year Mrs. Vlatka Đumlijan, born Remenar, prof. rehabilitator, both prominent experts in working with children and young people with developmental disabilities.

We will always remember you with warmth in our hearts and with respect. To You be eternal glory forever.

Zrinjka Stančić

#### **ALUMNI EFZG**

# Activities of the Croatian Association of Alumni of the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, in 2023

After a two-year break caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ALUMNI EFZG Association organized two very interesting Panels in 2023 that were extremely successful and attended and given that the Association has decided to be more active in the coming period, the Association will organize a series of events for its members. The first Panel on the topic "90 days with the euro" was held on March 31, 2023, in the Congress Hall at the Faculty of Economics and Business - Zagreb starting at 5:00 p.m. After the opening speeches and greetings from Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Jakša Krišto, vice dean for students and study programs of the Faculty of Economics and Business - Zagreb, the introduction to the panel was given by Assoc. Prof. Boris Vujčić Ph.D., president of the ALUMNI EFZG Association and governor of the Croatian National Bank. Panel participants were Marko Primorac, Minister of Finance; Michael Faulend, vice governor of the Croatian National Bank; Dinko Lucić, President of the Management Board of Privredna banka Zagreb p.l.c.; Mladen Lucić, director of Riznica INA p.l.c.; Dražen Čović, President of the Management Board of FINA; Zoran Mitreski, President of the Management Board of Konzum plus Ltd, and the panel was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Anita Čeh Časni Ph.D., vice-president of ALUMNI EFZG Association. The second Panel on the topic "Competitiveness of knowledge and skills on the labour market - how do economists rank?" was organized by the Association together with the Alumni Association of the Faculty of



Economics in Osijek, and was held on June 19, 2023, in the Library and Documentation Center of the Faculty of Economics and Business - Zagreb, starting at 5 p.m. After the opening speeches and greetings, the introduction to the Panel was given by Antonio Matković from SELECTIO Ltd, while the panel participants were Assoc. Prof. Ivana Bestvina Bukvić Ph.D. from the Faculty of Economics in Osijek, Assoc. Prof. Kosjenka Dumančić Ph.D., vice dean for strategic partnerships and projects of the Faculty of Economics and Business - Zagreb; Irena Weber, CEO of the Croatian Association of Employers and Antonio Matković from SELECTIO Ltd, and the panel was moderated by Davor Cota, producer - TOP RADIO HR. The third panel on the topic "Alumni success story: Women in top positions" was held on November 21, 2023, in the library of the Faculty of Economics and Business - Zagreb, organized by the Croatian Association of Alumni of the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, the European Documentation Center and the Library and Documentation Center. The participants were Martina Dalić Ph.D., president of the Management Board of Podravka p.l.c., Prof. Sanja Sever Mališ Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business - Zagreb, Ivana Gažić,

MBA, president of the Management Board of the Zagreb Stock Exchange and Irena Weber, director general of the Croatian Association of Employers. Introductory speeches were made by Assoc. Prof. Boris Vujčić Ph.D., governor of the CNB and president of the ALUMNI EFZG Association and Zrinka Udiljak Bugarinovski, Ec.S. senior librarian, head of the Library and Documentation Centre and the European Documentation Centre. The event was moderated by Ivan Vrdoljak, Bloomberg Adria. The introduction to the panel was given by Martina Dalić Ph.D. More than 25 years have passed since the adoption of the UN Declaration on Women's Rights, but although women have managed to overcome numerous obstacles and progress is visible, there are still challenges in overcoming inequality, including that in the labour market, to which moderator Ivan Vrdoljak drew special attention presenting statistical data from Eurostat that indicate a significantly higher number of highly educated women compared to the male population, but also a significantly lower number of women in high positions compared to men. He also pointed out that women in the EU are paid less than men, and that they work more hours on average than men. These statistics were supported in principle by the panellists, although the discussion raised the issue of correcting some of the presented statistical data. Through this inspiring panel, women panellists shared their personal stories with the guests about the road to success and how they balance private and business obligations, and at the end, they sent motivating messages to support other women in developing their careers.

All three panels were very well attended, and after the official part there was networking in Kefa, where old connections between members were renewed, new contacts made, experiences exchanged, and successful collaborations were achieved.

Anita Čeh Časni

#### AMAC - Alumni FER

#### FER launched initiatives to connect and empower alumni community

At the initiative of the Dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Prof. Vedrana Bilas Ph.D., in February 2023, the Alumni Board was established with the purpose of acting in the direction of strengthening synergy and encouraging engagement and cooperation between alumni and FER and within the numerous alumni communities in Croatia and abroad. The alumni board consists of 16 distinguished members, prominent names in their field of work: Luka Abrus (Five), Davor Baković (Končar–Mjerni transformeri), Mirna Bašić (Erste&Steiermärkische Bank), Tomislav Car (Productive), Josip Ćesić

(Gideon), Tomislav Čleković (Rimac Automobili), Boris Drilo (Croatian Telekom), Ivana Fazinić (Qagency), Anja Hula (Infobip), Gordan Kreković (Visage Technologies), Goran Mirković (AVL-AST), Mladen Pejković (Atlantic Group), Renata Rubeša (Croatian transmission system operator), Zlatka Tečec Ribarić (KONČAR – Institute of Electrical Engineering), Davor Tomašković (Croatia osiguranje) and Igor Strejček (Microblink), and Mladen Pejković was elected as the head of the board. "The goals of the initiative are to promote the FER brand internationally, find partners for projects and increase the number of foreign students. We



will also organize an annual gathering of alumni from Croatia and abroad, and various activities to attract top alumni "returnees" to FER. We will establish a foundation for needy and successful students of all levels of study. We will develop mentoring programs for the personal development of students and doctoral students, as well as for researchers", Dean Bilas announced during the initial meeting of the Alumni Board. Today, the mentioned initiatives are in the implementation phase and are already showing the first results.

# Alumni FER Foundation and mentoring program

One of the initiatives of the Alumni Board is the establishment of the Alumni FER Foundation with the aim of providing financial assistance to students whose financial pressures make it impossible to dedicate themselves to studies or even continue their studies. FER strives to equip its students with skills, knowledge and values that enable them to find themselves in their profession later in life and make a constructive contribution to society. FER Alumni Foundation is based on the belief that such students need help and are able to receive help, and that will, and solidarity are stronger than unfavourable circumstances. The long-term goal is to establish a stable and recognized foundation that can support a larger number of students and potentially expand its activities to scholarship based on the criteria of excellence so that the best students get additional encouragement and the opportunity for targeted training. Along with the establishment of FER Alumni Foundation, a mentoring program was launched that connects students and FER alumni with each other with the aim of providing support and guidance to mentors in their personal and professional development and increasing the likelihood of their success. Mentoring models are diverse and can be reduced to one issue or last an entire semester.

#### FER Connect gatherings

Regular alumni gatherings are a mechanism for maintaining contacts, sharing knowledge and information, and encouraging cooperation. The first large gathering of Alumni FER called FERConnect was held on June 15 at 5 p.m. at FER. In addition to discussions about life and career after student days, there was also talk about activities that all alumni can get involved in and cooperation with industry. Almost three hundred participants gathered on November 9, 2023, at the second big FERConnect gathering, organized by the FER Alumni Board and the Embassy of the French Republic in Croatia. A special guest was French American artificial intelligence expert Luc Julia Ph.D., Chief Science Officer of Renault Group and co-creator of Apple's voice assistant SIRI, whose development team he led.

#### The first international gathering in Zürich

In addition to local events, international initiatives have been launched. At the first international gathering of FER alumni, held on October 22, 2023 in Zürich, almost 50 participants gathered, who travelled from various parts of Switzerland. The dean of FER, Prof. Vedran Bilas Ph.D., and alumni coordinator Assis. Prof. Tomislav Marković Ph.D., both participated, and the gathering was organized by Matija Varga Ph.D. and Miranda Kreković Ph.D., members of the international team led by Vana Jeličić Ph.D. "In a relaxed atmosphere, we exchanged positive and constructive experiences with our former students, and many expressed their desire to participate in FER initiatives and contribute to their faculty, which helped them build truly successful international careers," Dean Bilas said. Namely, many alumni completed

doctoral and postdoctoral studies at the most prestigious Swiss universities, which are also the best universities in Europe and the world, and many are employed in start-up companies or large corporations, such as Google, ABB, or Huawei. Dean Bilas and coordinator Marković held meetings on the topic of future cooperation, student mobility and exchange of experiences. Gatherings are also planned in other European cities, and all alumni can actively participate in the work of the Alumni community with their ideas.

#### AMAC - Alumni FER Association

The AMAC-Alumni FER Association is included in the launched alumni initiatives, which provides its members with an additional level of information, involvement, and benefits. The goals of the Association include promoting the profession of electrical engineering and computing and strengthening the connection of alumni with FER. That is why the Association participates in the organization of various events and gatherings, transmits information from FER and provides benefits that encourage members to lifelong



learning, development of expertise and networking. At the Extraordinary Election Assembly held on September 26, 2023, a new presidency and other bodies of the Association were elected, and the new president is Gordan Kreković Ph.D. A new activity plan of the Association was drawn up with the aim of greater engagement of the Association's members and more intensive work on the Association's goals.

Gordan Kreković

#### **AMACIZ**

#### Academic Choir "Vladimir Prelog", activities of the Choir in 2023

Academic Choir "Vladimir Prelog" continued its successful work with many performances in our city this year. What really marked this year were the performances of our Choir for our faculty, the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, first at the opening of the completely renovated building at Marulićev trg 19, which means a lot both for the faculty and for the scientific community as a whole. The opening was held on Monday, November 27, in front of many guests from the faculty and the scientific community and the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

The choir sang the Croatian national anthem Lijepa naša, Beethoven's Ode to Joy and Alleluia (Limburg). The choir also graced two promotions of FKIT graduates on Saturday, December 2, in the newly renovated large hall, by performing the Croatian national anthem and the student anthem Gaudeamus igitur.

On March 30, the choir performed at the traditional Passion Heritage event, which is regularly held in the days before Easter. The Hungarian Cultural Centre in Augusta Cesarca Street was too small to receive an interested audience (over



200 attendees) at our concert entitled Music of Christian Africa where we performed African and Afro-American compositions with soloists and under the direction of our artistic director Iva Juras. The enthusiasm of the audience was enormous, and at the end of the concert we had to perform two encores.

We performed at the Heart of Jesus Festival in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Zagreb on June 15. This Festival was conceived as a meeting of choirs from Zagreb, and at the same time, it aims to raise funds for the restoration of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Palmotićeva Street through voluntary contributions. The organizer of this Festival was the "Palma" Academic Choir, which operates within the Basilica. The church was almost full, and our performance was very well received. We performed works by J. Bust (Ave Maria), S. V. Rachmaninov (Six Psalms) and Kirchner (Wana Baraka). Also, in November, the Choir performed at the 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Zagreb Music Amateurs, this time at the Trešnjevka Culture Centre.

We ended this year with a well-attended concert as part of the Festival of Advent and Christmas Songs, which was held in the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua at Sveti Duh. In addition to our Choir, the Zagreb Doctors' Singers Choir and the Male Doctors' Choir from Split also performed. It was very festive and beautiful with a handful of compositions that are usually performed in the Advent and Christmas season, and in the end it all ended with the joint songs by all three choirs. It was a wonderful ending to 2023. This year, the Choir maintained a high level of musicianship, for which the long-time artistic director Mrs. Iva Juras was most responsible, and it received countless positive reviews with lots of applause and ovations from the audience present. The choir has a permanent membership of about 50 singers, alumni of many faculties of the University of Zagreb, which is a guarantee for the continuation of quality work in the following years.

Branko Kobas

# AMAC-FSC Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of study of aeronautics at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences

Academic year 2022/2023 marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of study of aeronautics at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences (FPZ). The study of aeronautics is carried out as a university undergraduate and graduate study and studies the theory and practice of flying, air navigation, i.e. the movement of aircraft in airspace and the accompanying functions of organization, management, and control of air traffic. Considering the needs of the labour market and the opinions of partner institutions, a new program of the university's undergraduate study program in Aeronautics was created and accredited and is in use from the academic year 2023/2024, while the new graduate study is still being developed. The new undergraduate study program has two programmes and four modules: pilot (civilian pilot and military pilot modules) and air traffic management (air traffic control and military air traffic modules). The study program is aligned with the requirements of the European regulation on the training of professional pilots and air traffic controllers and includes theoretical knowledge and practical skills from various aeronautical content, such as aircraft navigation, aircraft instruments and electrical systems, aircraft structures and systems, flight theory and aircraft performance. aircraft propulsion systems, airspace, and air traffic control (airport, approach, area), radiotelephone

communication, aviation meteorology, etc. The study program for the modules civil pilot and air traffic control enables students to acquire some of the competences for later professional licensing. Military modules (military pilot and military air traffic control) are carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of defence of the Republic of Croatia (MOD) and it is enrolled only by candidates who have additionally passed the special selection conditions of the Ministry of defence, and are trained to be the members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, i.e. the Croatian Air Force. In the context of training military pilot students, it should be noted that the interest in enrolling in military pilot module increased significantly in the academic year 2022/2023, which can be connected with the period of acquisition of new modern aircraft in the last few years, from OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, UH-60 Black Hawk to Dassault Rafale. The graduate study of aeronautics is an upgrade of the study program at the undergraduate level. The program has three modules, civil, aviation and military, which include compulsory and optional aeronautical courses. The civilian module program is primarily intended for the continuation of the education of civil pilot and air traffic controller students, although many of the graduated students find employment after completing their undergraduate studies. The

graduate study includes courses that enable the acquisition of competences in the field of supersonic flight theory and helicopters, planning, control and maintenance of aircraft, control of unmanned aerial vehicles, airspace capacity management, processes and quality in aeronautics, and the impact of aircraft flight on the environment. The flight and military module programs are intended to continue the education of military pilot and military air traffic control undergraduate students in Aeronautics. They include courses in laboratory and practical flight training exercises on military aircraft and courses in the field of military sciences and are conducted at the HRZ Rudolf Perešin Training Centre and the 93rd HRZ Wing in Zemunik, in cooperation with the Ministry of defence for the needs of the Croatian Armed Forces. In order to acquire the necessary aeronautical competences for the labour market, which requires a large share of practical training (flight training and practicing the separation of aircraft in air traffic control), FPZ has established two special organizational units that are authorized by the Croatian Civil Aviation Agency to carry out professional training of professional (civilian ) pilots (Croatian Aviation Training Centre - HZNS) and air traffic controllers (Croatian Air Traffic Control Training Centre - HUSK). The faculty owns five aircraft and a sophisticated flight simulator for practical training of pilots located at HZNS at Lučko airport, a hangar and workshop for aircraft maintenance, and an advanced radar simulator for air traffic control located at ZAN at Borongaj Campus. Also, high-quality teaching and the acquisition of the necessary competences for the labour market are ensured by five laboratories that were established as part of the Department of Aeronautics for the implementation of scientific and research activities (Laboratory for Aerodynamics, Laboratory for Testing in Aerotechnics, Laboratory for Air Navigation Control, Laboratory for Flight Simulation and the Aviation Emissions Laboratory), and are equipped with various equipment such as flight simulators, airspace control simulators, wind tunnels, unmanned aerial vehicles, sound analysers, etc. In the laboratories, students are enabled to work

Student-cadet of the module Military Pilot

independently on the preparation of final and diploma theses and to carry out activities in as part of scientific research projects. In the last academic year, the existing teleconference classroom was modernized into an advanced multi-functional classroom which, in addition to hybrid teaching, also enables high-quality work of students in groups and is used as a PC laboratory. Upon completion of undergraduate and graduate studies in aeronautics, students acquire theoretical knowledge, practical skills and final competences that enable employment in this complex sector, in jobs of medium and high complexity in the field of aeronautics and air transport, in the state, public and private sectors and science, and which have importance in the social and national context. For this festive anniversary of the 30th year of aeronautics studies, the labour market of graduated aeronautics students, FPZ alumni, was specially researched, and a video material was created (https:// youtu.be/dTGNZlHkJqY) that vividly shows the wide variety of different jobs that former students perform today. The list of jobs that aeronautics alumni perform is impressive:

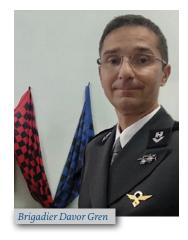
- completed military pilot training: commander of HRZ, commander of air base or pilot school, commander of aerobatic group, pilots of supersonic airplanes and helicopters at HRZ, flight instructors, commanders of flight platoons and firefighting squadrons, etc.
- completed civilian pilot course: captains and copilots in national and foreign airlines (Croatia Airlines, Trade Air, ETF Airways, JungSky, Air Pannonia, Fly Air41, Wizzair, Ryanair, EasyJet, etc.) and general aviation airlines, flight instructors, aircraft maintenance engineers, flight procedure designers, continuous airworthiness maintenance engineers, etc.
- completed training in flight control: airport, approach and area air traffic controllers, air traffic control instructors, inspectors of the authorised national and European aviation agencies, flight procedure designers, specialists in the field of aviation information, specialists in the analysis and simulation of air traffic management, flight dispatchers and others



Department of Aeronautics also has a good cooperation with other institutions and companies from the aviation sector in the Republic of Croatia, such as Croatia Airlines and Croatia Control Ltd and has signed cooperation agreements with a number of European universities and institutions, of which the Experimental Centre of the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL) should be highlighted. In accordance with the above, we also quote short statements from two prominent alumni of study of aeronautics, from the field of military and civil aviation: Brigadier Davor Gren, commander of the pilot school at the Croatian Air Force, and captain Davor Mišić, director of transport at the national airline Croatia Airlines.

Brigadier Davor Gren: I can talk about the study of aeronautics at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences from two perspectives. The first is personal, through attending studies, and the second is from the perspective of the function I hold, and it implies cooperation in the implementation of the study program of the military pilot module. At the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, I completed a five-year university study of Aeronautics - military pilot according to the "old" model. Given that the study was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of defence since its inception, it enabled me to acquire three important achievements: a graduate engineer, a military pilot, and the rank of lieutenant. During my studies, I went through a demanding education program and gained the foundations for later easier acquisition of additional competences during lifelong education, which is an important segment in the training of pilots and military personnel. Today, as the commander of the pilot school that coordinates non-flight training (optional and basic officer training) with the practical part (flight training), I closely cooperate in the implementation of their further training, and I can say that the study conceived in this way enables them to acquire a high level of knowledge and practical skills in the field of aeronautics and military flying and provides them with the competences of future masters of aeronautical engineers and officers from the field of aviation, that is, military flying and observation and guidance.

Captain Davor Mišić: Like my colleague Gren, I can also talk about the study of aeronautics at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences from two perspectives: personally, as a student, and from the position I hold. At the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, I completed a three-year study of Aeronautics, majoring in civil piloting on the pre-Bologna model, and later a graduate study of air traffic. During my studies, I had high-quality theoretical classes and practical flight training, which enabled me to acquire the initial competences for the later continuation of training up to a professional pilot's license and the possibility of employment in an airline company. The study was an important segment in my development because it prepared me for the process of lifelong learning, which is an important segment in the training of aviation personnel. Today, I hold the position of director of transport in our national airline Croatia Airlines Ltd and I am also the captain, instructor, and examiner on the Dash 8-Q400 aircraft. From my experience, I can confirm that students who have completed Aeronautics studies, majoring in civil piloting, are very competitive on the labour market because they acquire competences in a program whose course content is aligned with the requirements of the profession and European regulations for obtaining a commercial pilot's license (EASA ATPL theory). The backbone of the pilot profession in our airline is made up of former students of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences majoring in civil piloting. With regard to the upcoming acquisition of a new fleet of A220 aircraft, i.e. the needs of Croatia Airlines Ltd, I can say that both now and in the future, we are counting on the employment of a large number of personnel who have completed the aforementioned studies.





Biljana Juričić and Jurica Ivošević

# Strengthening the bond between the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences and its current and future alumni

In a sincere effort to continuously monitor the quality of its study programs and their complementarity with the current and future needs of the labour market, the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences pays special attention to monitoring the employability and career development of its alumni. Continuously since 2016, the Committee for Monitoring the Careers of Former Students of the Faculty has been conducting longitudinal (panel) research on a group of generational alumni of the faculty. In cooperation with the Croatian Association of Graduate Engineers and Engineers of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences of the University of Zagreb AMAC-FSC, the first surveys included all alumni of the faculty (as of 2015) for whom it was possible to identify a contact (e-mail address or phone number). 2,000 questionnaires were successfully sent, to which 44% of alumni responded. All subsequent survey cycles follow academic generations. The share of responses to the survey shows a growing trend (up to 64%). The collected data on the level of success of the transition to the labour market, the duration and methods of finding the first job, employers and workplaces, the level of satisfaction with completed studies, and career achievements and challenges, are extremely important to the faculty. In the generational first wave of research, feedback on the feeling of readiness and competence for the labour market and expressed desire for networking

at the level of the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences and the University of Zagreb is particularly important. The alumni's personal feeling regarding competence in the labour market is part of the internal monitoring of the quality of the study programs at the faculty, while the expressed desire for cooperation is an indicator for further development of various forms of cooperation and the strengthening of the academic and professional community. Motivated by the results of the analysis of the data collected from the research, in 2019, the Career Development Office was established at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences with the aim of encouraging excellence, preparing students for the challenges of the labour market by conducting targeted workshops, professional internships and targeted connection of students with alumni of the faculty. Creating a strong network of contacts between current and former students ensures the strengthening of the influence of our profession, and thus the reputation of our Faculty and the University of Zagreb. The synergistic work of the Career Development Office, the Career Monitoring Committee and AMAC-FSC aims to strengthen the sense of belonging to the faculty and the University of Zagreb, and mutual care with the desire that contacts and activities with our students do not end when they leave the faculty.

Marija Vodopivec Oslić and Diana Božić

#### DBS-KBF/AMAC-FTC

Celebration of the Day of the Association of Former Students of the Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb (DBS-KBF / AMAC-FTC) – Stepinčevo 2023

DBS-KBF solemnly celebrated its Day – Stepinčevo 2023 in Velika Gorica and Turopolje on Saturday, February 11, 2023. With the kindness and dedication of the pastor from Velika Gorica and KBF alumnus of the University of Zagreb, Rev. Norbert Ivan Koprivec, participants in the Day of celebration of DBS-KBF, University of Zagreb, on Saturday, February 11, 2023, visited Velika Gorica and some places in Turopolje. In addition to forty members of DBS-KBF, University of Zagreb, the dean of DBS-KBF, University of Zagreb, Josip Šimunović Ph.D., participated in the celebration, as well as president of ALUMNI UNIZG Association Prof. Mario Šafran Ph.D., former president of the UNIZG ALUMNI Association and former rector of

the University of Zagreb, prof. emer. Helena Jasna Mencer and other distinguished guests. The guide through the historical and cultural heritage of the Turopolje region was Mr. Juraj pl. Odrčić, Prefect of the Noble Municipality of Turopolje, who took us through Velika Gorica Tourist Information Centre and Turopolje Museum in Velika Gorica, presenting the concept, history, traditions, customs, and heritage of Turopolje as a unique and rich Croatian region. After that, a solemn Eucharistic celebration was held in the Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, led by the local pastor, Rev. Koprivec in collaboration with DBS-KBF members of the University of Zagreb and local parishioners. A special sermon was delivered by the



spiritual director of DBS-KBF of the University of Zagreb, Rev. Vlado Razum. After the Eucharistic celebration, the participants of the Day of celebration of DBS-KBF, University of Zagreb, visited Bedeković Curia in Donja Lomnica, the Old Town of Lukavec in Gornja Lomnica and the old parish church of St. Barbara in Velika Mlaka. Pl. Odrčić detailed the historical and current facts of the mentioned Turopolje localities at all locations. In

the meantime, the participants of the Day of celebration of DBS-KBF, University of Zagreb, had a short meeting with the mayor of Velika Gorica and an alumnus of KBF, University of Zagreb, Mr. Krešimir Ačkar, to whom they handed over a monograph of KBF. The Day of celebration of DBS-KBF, University of Zagreb, ended with a joint lunch and socializing.

Tonči Matulić and Vanda Kraft Soić

#### **AMAMUZ**

#### Twenty years of medicine studies in English at the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb

In the distant year of 2002, in the short period after the end of the Homeland War, while CNN was still publishing images of bombed Dubrovnik and the horrors of the fall of heroic Vukovar, the School of Medicine of the University of Zagreb decided to take a bold step in those times: establishing a study in English for international students. Firmly convinced of a better future and membership of our homeland in the EU, the Initiative Committee chaired by the Dean, Prof. Boris Labar Ph.D., organized a workshop that same year that was to give birth to what is popularly called "Medical Studies in English" (MSE). In addition to colleagues from Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, our well-known professor of pathology, Ivan Damjanov (University of Kansas, USA), as well as a number of distinguished local experts, professors, teachers, participated in the workshop. After the workshop, a working group was appointed very quickly to work on the proposal of the MSE plan and program. Important novelties in that program were the introduction of new courses in the sixth year of study, stronger interconnection of

individual clinical professions and the introduction of modules as a special form of problem-oriented teaching. MSE is conceived as an important instrument of internationalization of School of Medicine that promotes our University through Erasmus and bilateral agreements, visiting teachers and partnerships in the field of basic, clinical, translational medicine and public health. The Senate of the University of Zagreb adopted the study program proposal in 2002, and the first generation of students was enrolled in academic year 2003/2004. Of particular importance was the process of harmonizing the school's curriculum with the European system of higher education (known as the Bologna process), in which our School participated intensively. During Prof. Nada Čikeš's, Ph.D., term of office as the dean, the plan and program of the study of medicine in Croatian and English languages is harmonized with the guidelines and standards of the Bologna process. The great effort built into the Bologna Process soon paid off. On June 29, 2005, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (MZOS) issued a permit to continue the studies. The plan



and program of MSE, of course, largely overlaps with its "older" version, the study of medicine in the Croatian language. However, the MSE curriculum has some specifics, especially in the sixth year. Students in the last year of their studies go on clinical rotations lasting three months in order to better prepare for their duty as young doctors. At the same time, 50% of teaching hours is devoted to the so-called conservative medical professions (e.g. internal medicine, infectious diseases, etc.), and 50% operative (e.g. surgery, otorhinolaryngology, urology, gynaecology with obstetrics...). There are also some minor modifications within certain subjects, for example, in the Infectology course in the fourth year and the Integrated module in the sixth year, part of the lesson is devoted to a greater extent (than usual) to tropical medicine. There are also some courses that deal with health problems of the elderly population, such as Geriatrics and End of life, which are very applicable to the health systems of developed countries, where most MSE students come from. The Croatian language course, which takes place during the first three years of study to prepare students for the clinical part of the course and communication with patients, should be highlighted. There are also optional courses conducted in collaboration with foreign universities, for example Pharmacogenomics (partner: University of Montreal, Canada), Paediatric allergy (partner: University of Manchester from Great Britain) and Palliative care (partner: University of Kent, Great Britain). In the meantime, with the development of the Studio, it was necessary to establish the Students office. The beginnings were modest, with only one employee (Mr. Danijel Međan). In the next few years, by hiring current employees, Jasna Gamulin Ph.D. (Head of the office) and employees Nika Hećej, lva Fumić and Dagmar Štafe, the office took on its current framework. At the beginning, the spatial conditions in which the office worked were relatively modest (one small room on the second floor of the so-called New

Dean's Office). The office soon expanded to two adjacent rooms and was equipped with appropriate office and IT equipment. The head of the study was also assigned an assistant for clinical teaching (Prof. Željko Krznarić, Ph.D.), who made a great effort to organize the teaching at the clinics of KBC Zagreb, but also at other clinical bases of the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb. Assoc. Prof. Maja Balarin Ph.D. made a noticeable contribution to the functioning of the Studies, and, at one time, she held the position of Assistant Head of Studies for Student Affairs. One of the greatest values of MSE is the fact that it creates preconditions for the arrival of foreign students who use the EU mobility program (Erasmus, etc.), as well as other exchange programs, mostly based on bilateral agreements between the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, and international academic partners. During the tenure of the Dean Prof. Davor Miličić Ph.D., the School received great recognition in 2015 when the European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education awarded it the CeQInt certificate (Certificate for Quality in Internationalization). Thus, the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, became the first biomedical institution of higher education within the European Union to receive this form of certificate, which was significant for the international promotion of both our University and the School. The head of the international cooperation office at the time, Mr. Drago Horvat gave a great help in the preparation of the documentation for CeQInt. During each academic year, a dozen Erasmus students spend one or two semesters at MSE and successfully pass exams in the courses they take. The rich exchange of students and teachers also enriches the academic life of our university. International mobility programs and the inclusion of Erasmus students in MSE take place thanks to the excellent cooperation and support of the university's Office for International Cooperation. The joint elective courses with reputable foreign universities reflect



interdisciplinary nature and involvement of domestic and foreign higher education institutions and university hospitals. MSE elective courses are also an example of a good cooperation between foreign and domestic lecturers. In addition, holding classes in English increases the teaching competences of our teachers, associates, as well as the administrative staff of the school. Many assistants (after teaching for several generations popularly called "Englishmen") can without any difficulty hold a lecture at international gatherings and confidently answer the questions from participants. Constant contact with international students allows professional expressions in English to be constantly "refreshed". During the year 2020 (during the COVID-19 pandemic), during Dean Prof. Marijan Klarica's Ph.D. term, the school was hit first by the Zagreb and then Petrinja earthquake. The buildings of the School of Medicine in Šalata, as well as practically all their teaching bases - clinical hospital centres and clinical hospitals (from Sv. Duh to KB Dubrava) suffered significant damage. Dean Klarica, together with the entire Dean's College, made an enormous effort to establish some kind of normal functioning of the school and the teaching process. This was greatly helped by the funds brought by the MSE program over the years. Access to European funds enabled further structural renovation of buildings on Šalata, but also in certain clinical bases, and it is in full swing. In parallel with the earthquake, the COVID-19 pandemic made it much more difficult to carry out all forms of teaching, especially clinical ones. In the pandemic conditions, it was also extremely difficult to attract foreign students. The management of the MSE therefore decided to conduct the grading process remotely (online), making the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, the first component to introduce a detailed online admission of candidates. More than 300 full-time students from 29 different countries of the world are currently studying at the MSE

program. There are exactly 400 medical graduates from MSE. They come from 35 countries, including Croatia. It should be noted that many of the declared Croatian citizens - students - have dual citizenship (most often Canadian, American, or Swedish). Although graduated doctors usually return to their country of origin, members of our diaspora are happy to stay to work in our homeland (some are employed in Bjelovar, Varaždin, Krapina, Korčula...). On several occasions, the media highlighted the example of a graduated doctor, a member of our diaspora, who works on an isolated island. With hard work, he is at the disposal of his islanders, but also collects donations in order to better equip his modest island practice. A smaller number of MSE graduates also work in top healthcare institutions, for example, KBC Zagreb (our colleagues received and completed specialization in surgery and anaesthesiology). The school tries to stay in contact with its former students as much as possible. A web page has just been launched, with the help of which colleagues, already graduated doctors, would present their experiences from the countries they went to (specializations, working conditions, on-call duties...). MSE alumni are also working on a part of the closed web that would be dedicated to some news in their private sphere of life - for example, getting married, having a child, the quality, and peculiarities of the life of the community in which they live. Finally, let's mention that this academic year, in accordance with the decision of the Senate of the University of Zagreb, 89 students were enrolled in the first year of MSE (the most so far). Of these, 20 students come from France, thanks to the partnership between the city of Orleans and the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb. This is the proof that the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, was and still remains an attractive higher education institution that not only attracts the best Croatian high school students but also numerous candidates from around the world.

Davor Ježek

#### **AMCA-Paris**

#### One hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Antun Gustav Matoš

This year, on June 13, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Antun Gustavo Matoš was celebrated. It was an opportunity to hold a small commemorative ceremony in France, next to the monument of Antun Gustav Matoš. At the suggestion of Damir Perinić, the former president of the AMCA Paris association, a group of Croats, most of whom are residents of the town of Issy les Moulineaux, gathered next to the monument to Matoš. A delegation from the city of Issy le Moulineaux came led by the mayor Andre Santini and two city councillors, Mrs. Fabienne Liadze, in charge of culture and Mr. Alain Levy, the councillor who led the works of placing the monument by the city of Issy les Moulineaux. Mrs. Senka Burić from the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in France attended as the chargé d'affaires of the Embassy. In a short introductory speech, Damir Perinić thanked Mayor Andre Santini for adopting the monument, which has become the part of the city's heritage. As proof of the popularity of the monument in the city that accepted it, sometimes newlyweds take photos next to the monument during their wedding ceremonies. Mrs. Senka Burić, laying a bouquet of flowers next to the monument, mentioned the writer's significant work that was created in France, as well as the significance of the permanent presence of our poet's monument in the French environment. Mayor Andre Santini mentioned in a few words that the monument was well received by the city's residents, while City Councillor Alain Levy spoke about the difficulties in choosing a place and the preparations for placing the monument in the garden of the Garden of a Thousand Roses. After that, Mrs. Ivanka Jardin and Mr. Neven Gospodnetić held a short recital of Antun Gustav Matoš's poetry,

reciting poems in Croatian and French. They were joined by Mr. Alain Levy reciting the poem The Mysterious Rose.

The monument of A. G. Matoš, a donation by the great Croatian sculptor Ivan Kožarić, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, stands in the garden of the Garden of a Thousand Roses in the town of Issy les Moulineaux, which borders the city of Paris. Damir Perinić, as a member of the AMCA Paris association, proposed that a monument be erected in various places in the city of Paris for nine years, where A. G. Matoš lived and worked. The Commission for Monuments of the City of Paris refused to accept the installation of the sculpture for various reasons, mostly political. Neither the recommendations from the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Stipe Mesić, nor various Croatian Ministers of Culture, and even significant figures from French cultural and political life helped. After Paris definitively rejected the proposal to erect a monument to A. G. Matoš in 2007, the mayor of Issy les Moulineaux, Andre Santini, enthusiastically accepted the proposal to erect a sculpture in the garden of the Garden of a Thousand Roses. A few years later, on February 8, 2014, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Croatia Andrea Zlatar-Violić and Mayor Andre Santini solemnly inaugurated the monument in front of a large number of Croats and city residents. On that occasion, an exhibition about the writer was organized, a small cello concert was held, a selection of the poet's songs was recited, and the town of Issy les Moulineaux financed the publication of a book of Matoš's poetry in Croatian and French.

Damir Perinić



# AMCA Toronto Activities of AMCA Toronto in 2022/2023

Members of the Board of directors of AMCA Toronto organized numerous activities and gatherings of members of the association, but also of the wider community in this part of Canada. Last year's 19th AMCA Toronto Annual Dinner was held on November 4, 2022, at the Baka Gallery Cafein Toronto. In addition to AMCA members, younger participants gathered, mostly students from the Canadian Croat community. The special guest and main speaker of the evening was State Secretary Zvonko Milas. The delegation that included the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Canada, Vice Skračić, and the Consul General in Mississauga, Ante Jović, glorified our annual gathering. "I am happy to see the strength of your community, so many different generations who work together through various activities to preserve Croatian culture and tradition and thus remain connected to their roots" - State Secretary Milas pointed out in his address and emphasized that the cooperation between Croatian emigrants and the Croatian homeland is even more intense, through the support of the Office for Croats outside the Republic of Croatia. As part of the annual dinner program, two scholarships were awarded to the best candidates: Josip Maršić and Toni Trstenjak. Every year, AMCA Toronto awards scholarships to students in the community who meet the criteria defined by our association's regulations. Enjoying a light snack, people took pleasure in music performed by Emir Cerić, and the most cheerful members sang "Gaudeamus igitur" together. A Christmas party was organized in December 2022. As in many years past, members of AMCA Toronto and friends of the association spent a pleasant evening at the Baka Galery Cafe. The AMCA Annual General Meeting is held every year in February. This year, Zvonimir Poljak, associate professor at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, became a member of the Membership Board. Zvonimir Poljak, MD, graduated as a doctor of veterinary medicine at the University of Zagreb and received a master's and doctorate degree from the University of Guelph. His main areas of interest are infectious animal diseases and the application of quantitative data analysis methods. Zvonimir Poljak MD is one of the directors of the research program for the Ontario Agrifood Innovation Alliance, and a member of several editorial boards of journals in his field, and actively collaborates with researchers at Croatian institutions.

For our popular AMCA Toronto lecture on May 11, 2023, we hosted Vica Skračić, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Canada. The lecture on the topic: "Croatia's entry into Schengen and the Eurozone - Challenges of a new era" had an excellent response, and Mr. Skračić answered questions from



participants interested in this topic. Those gathered in Baka Gallery Cafe learned from the speech of the ambassador Mr. Skračić that the accession of the

ambassador Mr. Skračić that the accession of the Republic of Croatia on January 1, 2023, is the culmination of a long-term process for entering the eurozone, which began 30 years ago, and marks Croatia's full return to the European cultural circle and the circle of civilization. During the lectures, the participants had the opportunity to receive information about the advantages of introducing a common currency and removing border checkpoints with EU neighbours, as well as other economic and political consequences. After a long pause without sporting events, AMCA Toronto members and supporters joined the table tennis tournament that took place on June 10th at My Table Tennis Club in Mississauga. Table tennis tournament for all levels; from beginners to outstanding players, and for all ages, in the category of women and men, it was fun for all participants. After the tournament, the competitors spent the afternoon socializing in the Father Kamber Croatian Park in Mississauga. The main organizer of the tournament was AMCA member Željko Odorčić, whose company Nova Marketing Group sponsored the tournament and the lunch after the tournament. On November 10, 2023, the new member of the Board of Directors of AMCA Toronto, Zvonimir Poljak, held an interesting online lecture for members of the association and the wider community on the topic of Influenza A viruses in animals and humans - tango through the millennia, and the jubilee 20th annual night of AMCA Toronto, which is planned for November 23rd at Baka Gallery Café.



Ana Bačić

#### Interview with Prof. Sabina Strmić Palinkas, Ph.D.



### 1. Please describe how your career path in science has been so far

I graduated from the Department of Geology at the Faculty of Science in 1999, majoring in mineralogy-petrology, and after completing my studies, which, at that time, lasted nine semesters, at the Division of Mineralogy-Petrology at the Department of Geology, I got a position as a junior research assistant and the opportunity to write a master's thesis. My master's project lasted four years and was part of a larger research project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, which enabled me to specialize in the top isotopic and geochemical laboratories at the University of Lausanne, as well as numerous stays in the laboratories at the University of Montan in Leoben and Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. After my master's degree, I continued my doctoral studies at the Department of Geology Faculty of Science, but I continued to build my international cooperation and use every opportunity to improve my skills in foreign laboratories. That's how I started collaborating with colleagues from the ATOMKI Centre in Debrecen, the GeoForschungs Center in Potsdam, and Kingston University in London. After obtaining my doctorate degree, I worked for a year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, and then, in 2010, I got an assistant professor position at the same department. That position brought a lot of administrative duties, and I had the feeling that I didn't have enough time left for scientific work. This is why I decided to apply for a two-year research project at

the University of Auckland, New Zealand, which focused on geochemical processes in gold deposits. I was lucky enough to be selected from among dozens of candidates from all over the world. This project was definitely a turning point in my scientific career as it allowed me to do fieldwork in amazing locations that included several active volcanoes such as Ruapehu and White Island, and on the other hand it expanded my research network, not only to the University of Auckland but to the United States Geological Survey and the world's leading laboratory for fluid inclusion research at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. After the New Zealand adventure, I returned to Zagreb for a short time, but at the persuasion of my project manager in Auckland, I applied for an international competition for the position of associate professor in the field of geology of mineral resources at the University of Troms - the Norwegian Arctic University, which is also the northernmost university in the world. And so, since September 2015, I have been living and working in Troms, a small town in the north of Norway. Since 2018, I have also been working at the Centre for Deep Sea Research (Senter for dyphavsforskning) of the University of Bergen. In September 2022, I was promoted to full professor. My current research focuses on the geochemical processes that control the formation of mineral deposits of metals, primarily copper, gold, and cobalt. We conduct research at numerous field locations in Norway and Svalbard, but also during numerous maritime expeditions in the Arctic Ocean.

2. What knowledge and skills did you acquire during your studies, which gave you an advantage over your colleagues from other institutions?

Since I deal with the geochemistry of mineral deposits, a solid background in the chemical group of subjects (Analytical Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Instrumental Chemical Methods) as well as the foundations in mineralogy, petrology, and geology of mineral deposits that I received during my studies are definitely a great advantage. 3. How much are you in contact with your faculty? Although I left Zagreb almost 10 years ago, my ties with the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, remained strong. I continue to collaborate with my colleagues on scientific projects, I participate in managing graduate projects, and I am also very active in the Erasmus+ program, in the framework of which I come to Zagreb as a guest lecturer, but I also participate as a mentor to numerous PMF students who come to the University as part of the same program in Troms for international exchange.

## 4. What are the benefits and what are the challenges of working in science?

Work in science is very dynamic and creative and allows researchers to develop their research guided by their own scientific curiosity. My greatest passion is travel, and it was working on international scientific projects that allowed me to get to know some of the most remote places on our planet, such as Aurora, the northernmost known hydrothermal field in the world, located at 82.8 degrees north latitude, to be part of the research team that landed by helicopter in the crater of the active volcano White Island in New Zealand or to participate in the Japanese research expedition in the Pacific Ocean. However, this job has many challenges. Frequent trips, field work, teaching and working with students, and endless days in laboratories leave very little free time. This is especially challenging if you have a family and small children. We had our first child, daughter Lucija, during my master's project, and our younger daughter Helena arrived during my PhD. Sometimes it seemed impossible to balance all family and work obligations. However, with the unconditional support of my husband Igor, who often took on the role of both dad and mom, now that Lucija is a student in her last year of an undergraduate psychology course in London, and Helena is attending the penultimate year of high school in Troms, I can say that we succeeded.

# 5. What are the advantages of working in Croatia and what are the advantages of working abroad? I think that since Croatia joined the European Union, the differences keep disappearing, at least at the level of European research institutions. All of

us, regardless of which European country we come from, compete for project financing from more or less the same funds, such as Horizon Europe, the European Research Council (ERC) or the Erasmus+program. Also, most research projects today are multinational and include partners from different countries, depending on their scientific interest and expertise.

### 6. What do you consider your greatest success in your career so far?

Uh, it's hard to answer this question, especially because I'm somewhere in the middle of my scientific journey. Nevertheless, I am extremely proud of the research laboratory for fluid and melt inclusions, which I, together with my team in Troms, have been developing over the past few years. It is a laboratory that enables us to perform experimental work in the temperature range from -180°C to +1400°C, both in the visible and in the infrared and ultraviolet parts of the spectrum. We are also equipped with a Raman spectrometric system that we use to determine the composition of volatiles accumulated in inclusions as well as in mineralogical analyses. All in all, our laboratory is currently one of the best equipped laboratories for fluid and melt inclusion research in Northern Europe. In addition, I would also like to mention the research that we are doing in collaboration with the Centre for Deep Sea Research in Bergen on the mid-ocean ridges of the Arctic Ocean. It is about the research of recent hydrothermal processes at the ocean depth between 3 and 5 km. In our research, we use ships from the Norwegian research fleet, including the icebreaker Kronsprins Haakon and the underwater robot Ægir6000, developed specifically for our research needs. Research is multidisciplinary in the true sense of the word, and I and my team oversee collecting and interpreting mineralogical and geochemical data.

# 7. What is your recommendation to students - future geologists for breaking into the labor market?

I would definitely advise my young colleagues to take advantage of studying at the University of Zagreb, which provides a very high-quality education in the field of natural sciences, and, depending on their affinities, to choose some of the courses at other departments. As I mentioned at the beginning of this interview, it was the group of courses that I took at the Department of Chemistry, School of Medicine, that gave me the foundation for career development in the field of geochemistry. Also, I would advise all students, not only those studying geology, to take advantage of international student exchange opportunities, regardless of whether they plan their career in Croatia or abroad.

Interview by Tereza Oreb Faculty of Science

# University of Zagreb's scientists among the top 2% most influential scientists in the world

The United States-based Stanford University, more precisely, a research team led by Professor John P. A. Ioannidis, has released year 2022 list that represents the top 2% of the most influential scientists in the world.

The list is based on the world's largest database of scientific publications, Scopus, and includes more than 200,000 of the most influential scientists worldwide across 22 scientific fields with 174 scientific branches.

It involves a complex indicator model called the C-score, which is the sum of six standardized indicators of scientific productivity:

Total number of citations (NC)

Hirsch H-index for the citations (H)

Schreiber co-authorship adjusted Hm index for the citations (Hm)

Total number of citations to papers for which the scientist is single author (NS)

Total number of citations to papers for which the scientist is single or first author (NSF)

Total number of citations to papers for which the scientist is single, first, or last author (NSFL).

The final C-score focuses on the impact of scientific publications, i.e., citations, rather than productivity, i.e., the number of publications, and includes information about co-authorship and author positions (single, first or last author). Each result of NC, H, Hm, NS, NSF, and NSFL indicators is normalized at the values between 0 and 1, which are then added together. Thus, the C-score ranges between 0 and 6.

Two lists have been published: the list of the most influential scientists worldwide in 2022 and the list of the most influential scientists over a lifetime scientific career.

The 2022 list of the top 2% most influential scientists includes 110 scientists from the Republic of Croatia, of whom as many as 48 currently work or have worked at the University of Zagreb, 13 are from the University of Split, ten from the University of Rijeka, nine from the Ruđer Bošković Institute, six from the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, five from the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, two from the Croatian Catholic University and two from the University of North, one from the University of Zadar and one from the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula.

In the total share of the top 2% most influential Croatian scientists in 2022 as many as 43.63% are from the University of Zagreb.

The most influential scientists from the University of Zagreb in 2022, sorted by scientific fields are: Biomedicine

- School of Medicine Željko Reiner, Ivica Kostović, Miro Jakovljević, Goran Šimić, Maja Čikeš, Goran Augustin, Bojan Jelaković, Željko Krznarić, Kamelija Žarković, Nikolina Bašić-Jukić, Marko Lucijanić, Velimir Altabas, Bruno Baršić and Predrag Sikirić
- Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry Gordan Lauc, Ana Marija Domijan, Mario Jug, Ivan Kosalec and Nora Nikolac Gabaj
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Ivana Tlak Gajger
- School of Dental Medicine Matej Par Engineering
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing – Hrvoje Pandžić
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture – Hrvoje Jasak, Neven Duić, Goran Krajačić and Hrvoje Mikulčić
- Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology – Sanja Martinez and Sandra Babić
- Faculty of Geodesy Bojan Vršnak
- Faculty of Civil Engineering Tomislav Došlić

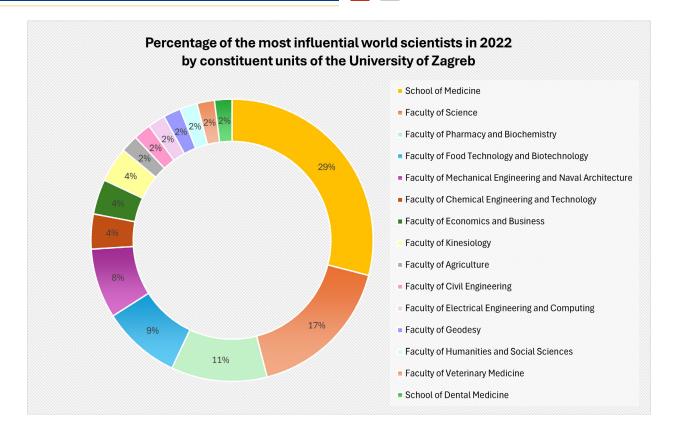
#### **Natural Sciences**

 Faculty of Science – Nada Oršolić, Vernesa Smolčić, Dario Vretenar, Tamara Nikšić, Andej Dujella, Krešimir Kumerički, Dražen Adamović and Hrvoje Buljan

#### Biotechnology

- Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology – Anet Režek Jambrak, Danijela Bursać Kovačević, Marina Cvjetko Bubalo, and Kristina Radošević
- Faculty of Agriculture Gabrijel Ondrašek Humanities and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Economics and Business Marina Dabić and Mirjana Pejić Bach
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Aleksandar Štulhofer
- Faculty of Kinesiology Goran Marković and Maroje Sorić

On the list of the top 2% most influential scientists over a lifetime scientific career, there are 75 Croatian scientists, of whom 29 are from the University of Zagreb, 11 from the Ruđer Bošković Institute, nine from the University of Split, four from the University of Rijeka, three from the Croatian Catholic University, three from the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, two from the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek and one scientist from the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula.



In the total share of the top 2% most influential Croatian scientists over a lifetime scientific career, 38.67% are from the University of Zagreb.

The most influential scientists from the University of Zagreb over a lifetime career, sorted by scientific fields are:

#### Biomedicine

- School of Medicine Željko Reiner, Ivica Kostović, Asim Kurjak, Miro Jakovljević, Marko Pećina, Petar Kes, Božo Krušlin, Bojan Jelaković, Josip Begovac, and Predrag Sikirić
- Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry Ana Marija Domijan and Nora Nikolac Gabaj

#### Engineering

- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing – Sven Lončarić, Hrvoje Pandžić, Dubravko Babić and Silvio Hrabar
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval

- Architecture Hrvoje Jasak, Neven Duić, Ivo Senjanović and Hrvoje Kozmar
- Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology – Mirjana Metikoš-Huković, Sanja Martinez and Đurđica Vasić-Rački
- Faculty of Geodesy Bojan Vršnak

#### **Natural Sciences**

 Faculty of Science – Dario Vretenar, Nada Oršolić and Andrej Dujella

#### **Humanities and Social Sciences**

- Faculty of Kinesiology Goran Marković Biotechnical
- Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology – Anet Režek Jambrak

The Stanford University's list is yet another confirmation that scientists from the University of Zagreb are leaders in Croatian scientific excellence and competitiveness.

source: University website