Catch Up or Forge Ahead

Try a creative, intensive intersession course

Are you looking for a chance to take a really unusual elective course? Would you like to finish your degree program and earn your diploma faster? Do you need a second chance with a difficult subject? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this January’s “tiger term” could be just the thing for you.

“Tiger Terms” are shorter, intensive sessions between semesters, offered in January and June each year, that offer students a special opportunity to earn additional credits, or try a difficult course again in a smaller, more concentrated and more personal atmosphere.

This year, RIT Croatia will offer winter intersession courses at the Dubrovnik and Zagreb campuses from January 5-23. Each class meets for three hours each day, five days a week, for three weeks.

Not only is the intersession a great opportunity to earn additional credits, or try again with a difficult course, it’s also a chance to encounter new topics and new professors.

This year’s visiting professors from the Rochester campus include Prof. Sylvia Benso, who will be teaching Philosophy of Love, Sex and Gender at the Dubrovnik campus, and Prof. Teresa Wolcott, who will be teaching Introduction to Graphical Information Systems at the Zagreb campus.

Intersession is also a great opportunity for students to experience life on their sister campus, enjoy a new city and meet new friends. Intersession is a perfect opportunity for cross-campus exchange between Zagreb and Dubrovnik.

RIT instituted the Tiger Term model last year, for several reasons. “Studies show that undivided attention on a single subject, over a short period of time, helps some students gain a better understanding of the subject matter,” RIT administrators said. “Second, a student who chooses to repeat a course in this intensive format, is already familiar with...” Continued on page 7

Visiting RIT prof. Elizabeth Lawley brings two exciting new courses to Dubrovnik

RIT Croatia students will have a chance to take two exciting new courses this spring in the “Games for Tourism” minor/concentration: Introduction to Interactive Media and Game Design and Development I.

These classes are ideal for non-technical students who want to start to learn about games and media. They will be followed in 2015-2016 academic year with classes on basic game programming for non-programmers, games and tourism, and game production.

Introduction to Interactive Media covers a wide range of topics related to games and media, ranging from copyright to social media to basic web and multimedia tools. There is no prerequisite for the class other than basic computer skills (such as word processing, web browsing, etc.). Continued on page 3
Senior hospitality program student Božo Bratičević traveled to Dubai in October with RIT Croatia professors Kevin Walker and Besim Agusaj, to attend the annual conference of Eurochrie, the European Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education.

Eurochrie is one of the largest professional associations of hospitality educators and institutions in the world. These three representatives of RIT Croatia joined more than 350 delegates from 50 countries at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel, for four days of professional networking, research presentations, and, of course, sightseeing in one of the most dynamic and exciting cities in the world.

Conference organizers describe it as “an ideal platform to share information through conferences, publications and individual networking. The organization’s strength is based on its sheer force of sharing and exchanging ideas, visions, experiences, educational material, research and technological know-how.”

Professors Agusaj and Walker presented a paper they co-authored with Prof. Milena Kuznin, on future directions in hospitality education.

Dubai: A hospitality moneymaking machine

Student Božo Braticevic, Prof. Besim Agusaj and Prof. Kevin Walker in Dubai.

Student Božo Bratičević, selected to attend the conference on the basis of his academic achievement and personal qualities, shared the following report from this exciting educational and cultural experience.

We arrive in Dubai around 9 PM local time. The airport seems enormous; the importance of marketing is instantly seen. It was a challenge to even look around and notice all of the advertising. We could see people from all over the world, including immigration officers in traditional white dress, and local women dressed in all black. Outside the special exit for travelers who need a taxi, large number of taxi drivers pull up one by one and pick up people instantly – perfect organization.

Since we arrived during the time of the Eid holiday, (the second most important holiday in Islam), we used our second day to take a tour around the city. I visited the famous Jumeriah Palm Island, the Antlantis Hotel and Dubai Mall. The Antlantis is a unique place, located on the top of the palm. The hotel includes an aqua park, open to the public. It seemed packed with people from all over the world. The infrastructure looks amazing, and all of the staff is extremely pleasant. We did not stay for a long time, since it was extremely hot outside, around 38 C. Passing through the city and business outlets, I noticed that all the employees seemed quite pleasant, which is challenging due to the high volume of visitors. Impression: Dubai is a hospitality moneymaking machine.

On the third day, once again I felt proud to be a part of RIT. Professor Walker and Professor Agusaj gave an outstanding presentation to a full auditorium. Their paper, co-written with prof. Milena Kuznin, was about new approaches to tourism entrepreneurship education for the future. The auditorium was full and the participants very engaged. The next presenter started by saying: After such a great presentation, the bar is set high and it will be difficult to keep up with it.

Earlier in the day, speakers included the chairman of one of the world’s most renowned and respected hotel group – Jumeriah Hotels, Dr. John Fong. His message was that the industry is growing, and growing fast. And the emphasis is on people that are providing the service.

On the last day, presentations continued to focus on new trends, the importance of a personal touch and functional futures. Ms. Salwan Finj had a great presentation about her company LG, one of the major sponsors of this year’s conference. She explained of future technology that LG has access to but cannot share yet, and there is the price element to be determined. She did not mention whether this technology can be implemented in educational institutions, and this is the question that I asked on the panel discussion later on.

Later that afternoon, the student assistants and volunteers captured my attention. They are students of Emirates Academy of Hospitality in Dubai, a co-host of the conference. They conducted themselves extremely professionally and politely at all times, like true young business people. They were mostly like myself, senior year students. They gave a quick tour around their vast campus. Like RIT Croatia, they have similar numbers of students per year, and work in smaller section, with very personal and customized approach. They also have a mandatory co-op and a high number of foreign students. I found their academia very similar to RIT Croatia, an amazing opportunity for young people all over the world.
Over the past three years, RIT and the University of Malmö, Sweden, have established a dynamic international partnership grounded in the spirit of interdisciplinary exploration and international teaching and research collaboration. This year’s symposium was held in Malmö in October. The symposium focused on three themes:

- Urban-Rural Environments and Sustainability: How do communities, real estate, and infrastructures relate?
- Digital Technology: Interaction Visual Culture, Literary Works, Critical texts and Emerging Art Forms
- Human Machine Agency and User Centered Software

RIT Croatia professors Jasmina Samardžija, Vanja Vajzagić, and Luka Boršić participated in the conference, along with colleagues from the Rochester campus and faculty members from Malmö. Professors Samardžija and Vajzagić presented their paper, “The Role of Leadership in Modeling Corporate Social Responsibility of Business Organizations.”

“Our research draws on evidence obtained through interviews with 100 Croatian leaders to determine basic leadership skills and core case studies undertaken with environmentally-oriented UK properties,” prof. Samardžija explained. “The aim of our paper is to identify and present the natural leader’s role in the development and implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility as part of an integrated business system of an organization and subsequently global sustainability.”

Prof. Luka Boršić presented a paper entitled, “Toward a more comprehensive theory of (on-line) privacy.”

“Although the problem of the relationship between the private and the public sphere has been discussed in philosophy as early as Aristotle, the rise and ubiquity of information technology has created a new set of issues regarding privacy and has forced us to rethink a relatively simple notion of traditional privacy into more complex theories of privacy and anonymity, as well as reevaluate risks and benefits of publicly shared bits of information,” he explained.

“The issues regarding IT privacy range from relatively ‘innocuous’ questions, such as whether it is morally right to web search a person, to complex issues, such as the Edward Snowden ‘leak’ case or the paradox of data mining from publicly available and willingly shared bits of information,” he explained.

“Like any public sphere, the internet has created a new set of issues regarding (on-line) privacy.”

RIT Croatia professors join Rochester colleagues at professional symposium in Sweden

By the end of the class, students will know how to effectively evaluate online information, use social media tools and sites, and design and implement a simple website with a range of media components.

Game Design & Development examines the underlying concepts of games and play, reviews game genres and components, and gives students the opportunity to both critique existing games and design and prototype their own game concepts.

This course examines the core process of game design, from ideation and structured brainstorming in an entertainment technology context through the examination of industry standard processes and techniques for documenting and managing the design process. This course specifically examines techniques for assessing and quantifying the validity of a given design, for managing innovation and creativity in a game development-specific context, and for world and character design. Specific emphasis is placed on both the examination and deconstruction of historical successes and failures, along with presentation of ethical and cultural issues related to the design and development of interactive software and the role of individuals in a team-oriented design methodology. Students in this class are expected to actively participate and engage in the culture of design and critique as it relates to the field.

“Neither of these classes requires any previous computing experience—and the interactive media class will give students a lot of useful skills along with theoretical knowledge. That makes them great options for the hospitality and business students,” Prof. Lawley explained. “IT students are welcome to use the game design course as part of a concentration, which really broadens their choice of options.”
Student accomplishments

National championship racer: Jelica Vrlazić

Many girls have hobbies like singing or dancing — but not me. My hobby is car racing, auto slalom and chronometer races.

My dad used to race when I was a little girl, and I always thought: how awesome is that? As the years passed by, I decided that I would do the same thing when I got my license.

People were skeptical about that, mostly because I was a girl, and we all know that stereotype: “Girls can’t drive.” That just gave an urge to do it more.

I competed in my first race at the end of my junior year. I was so scared that I couldn’t feel my legs, but somehow I finished and won third place for female drivers in the Zagreb Championship. The feeling was amazing and I couldn’t wait to get behind the wheel again.

My most recent race was held in Slano, near Dubrovnik in September. I was competing in the Croatian Championship, on the national level, for the first time. There were over 40 drivers competing. The track itself was hard, one of the hardest that I had to drive. So, I did a training round, slowly, to get to know the track.

I saw many people who crashed during training or the first race. It was scary. Those drivers are much more experienced than me. But, I gathered my guts, and stepped on gas pedal. I needed to finish all three races. That was my goal. I didn’t expect to win anything. I was there to drive and finish with the car still in one piece.

After all three races, came a surprise, a big one. My name, second place for female drivers. Later, another shock — my name again, third place in my class (serial production cars).

Both titles were for Croatian Championship. My brother Nikola also won two trophies, one for second place in our class, and third place for Junior driver.

The next day, chronometer race was held on the same place. Now, there were more drivers than the day before. This race was much faster, and it was first time for both my brother and me to drive this kind of race. Adrenalin was pumping through my veins, and I started.

Again, my goal was to finish, just to see if I’m capable of doing it. And I did.

At the end, I won third place for female drivers in the Croatian Championship. I was so happy that I couldn’t take the smile off my face for days. Our dad was so proud.

With my accomplishments, I believe that I’m fighting the stereotype that girls can’t drive. At least I have enough courage to compete against much more experienced and older drivers who were on the racing scene even before I knew how to walk.

SING OUT!
New Zagreb Campus Glee Club
by Diana Herakovic

Zagreb campus students who love to sing recently organized the college’s first Glee Club. The main idea came from sophomore, Lorena Rosean, who wanted to start an RIT choir with some talented singers from our campus.

At the first audition, members decided to form a choir, but with individual interpretation of songs, just like in the famous ‘Glee’ television show.

Club members Lorena Rosean, Diana Herakovic, Una Pašić, Eni Hoyka, Gabrijela Brigljević, Kim Pavković, Lucija Kuvačić, Katarina Glavan and Belma Jakupović rehearse three times a week.

Their first performance will be at the Zagreb campus Winter Auction, where they will perform some Christmas songs with individual solo singers backed by choir at the back, as well as ensemble performances.

They plan to become a good music club with well-rehearsed songs, and to arrange some public performances in Zagreb. The club’s first song was ‘God Bless The Broken Road’ by Rascal Flatts, which is definitely their favorite so far. The club will be focusing on country, RnB, rock, pop, jazz and soul styles.

RIT Croatia students win Startup Weekend competition

Four RIT Croatia teams competed in the third annual Startup Weekend entrepreneurship competition in Dubrovnik in November. Beginning with the presentation and selection of concepts, teams spent several days working on building ventures, exchanging ideas with mentors, and listening to guest speakers.

An esteemed panel of five judges including RIT Croatia’s own President and Dean, Don Huds peth, listened to each team’s five-minute presentation and then peppered the teams with questions before selecting the top three teams.

First place was awarded to RIT Croatia team “Check-It,” which presented an event ticketing solution concept. Zagreb campus students Ana Perica, Daren Perinčić and Mislav Mesek presented their idea for a simpler and easier way of collecting tickets to events, and at the same time, preventing unauthorized entry.

The Dubrovnik campus team, “Transit”, an online transportation scheduling service, won third place. Students Andrej Šarić, Dživo Jelić and Ivan Brčić, presented their idea for an application connecting public transportation services with the GPS system, to provide accurate information to passengers about bus schedules and locations.
RIT Croatia student government welcomed new freshmen trainee members on both campuses. Winners of this fall’s elections in Dubrovnik were Luka Dragičević, Josipa Buble, Ana Maria Trojić, and Jelena Baričević. In Zagreb, Dunja Pašalić, Mislav Horvatić, and Malik Ajala were selected to represent the freshman class.

These new members have joined the upperclass representatives, working together to improve student life both inside and outside the classroom.

“The simplest way to describe our work as the Student Government would be: students working for students,” said Zagreb sophomore SG representative Una Pašić. “Our goal is not only to maintain an enjoyable environment, but also to create a positive experience that generates life-long memories. We strive to create close connections to students as individuals while also remaining fair towards everyone.”

“One of SG’s most important jobs is to present students’ feedback to the RIT Education Committee and attend various meetings with other universities as a representative of RIT Croatia Student Government,” explained Dubrovnik junior SG representative Mirna Sorajić. “One the other hand, we also organize student events which adds a lot of fun to all of these ‘adult’ responsibilities. Through organizing the events, we as a team learn a lot about this specific industry and how it is actually done in the ‘real world’.”

Highlights of fall semester at both campuses included Freshman Welcome Party, Fall Barbeque, Halloween events, and movie nights. Upcoming events include Winter Charity Auction, Fun Run, Spring Games, and a humanitarian blood donation.

But successful Student Government depends on the participation of all students, Mirna said. “We would invite all students to stop by our office, grab a cup of tea and talk with us about any ideas or suggestions for the future.”

NEW SG MEMBERS in Dubrovnik and Zagreb

The motto “Building a Quality World Together” inspired third-year hospitality students at the Dubrovnik campus to organize a celebration of World Quality Day 2014.

As a part of the Assessing and Improving Service Quality course, taught by Prof. Milena Kužnin, students organized, delivered and celebrated World Quality Day, starting with a hearty “Slavonian breakfast” featuring traditional meats, cheeses and sweets. Entrance tickets and donations raised more than 3,000 kuna for Marija Ristić, a 21 year old woman from Stosinci, a small village in Slavonia. She lives alone with her grandmother and her house was demolished by recent floods.

“Celebrating World Quality Day has become a sort of a tradition at the Dubrovnik campus,” explained Prof. Kužnin. “Every year the students come up with original, creative projects that reflect the motto of the World Quality Day and the objectives of the Assessing Service Quality course. This year I am especially proud of the students’ initiative and humanitarian awareness.”

After breakfast, the students organized a Scavenger Quality Hunt around the college building and a tower building competition, featuring Professor Kevin Walker and Professor Besim Agusaj. The blindfolded professors competed against each other to build towers, as they were coached and instructed by students. The games are designed to enhance teamwork, communication skills and building of a joint spirit – all of which assure a higher quality achievement.

Juniors celebrate World Quality Day with fun, games, food to benefit Slavonian flood victims

Professor Kevin Walker, blindfolded, built a tower with help from students, including Mirna Sorajić, as part of World Quality Day activities in Dubrovnik.
GUEST SPEAKER SERIES PUTS STUDENTS IN TOUCH WITH INDUSTRY EXPERTS

This fall, the RIT Croatia Career Service Office brought college alumni, industry executives, and expert professionals to both campuses for a series of lectures and presentations. Students learned directly from the experts about the latest business trends and procedures, and connected personally with potential employers. Students who attended the entire series of lectures earned certificates which will help boost their CVs when applying for future jobs.

Hospitality in Dubrovnik

In Dubrovnik, the focus for October was on the hospitality industry, and the series kicked off with four alumni who returned to the campus to share stories from their career paths, followed by a lively discussion and question and answer session with current students. Speakers included Mrs. Kristina Kelečić Kanostrevac (class of 2002), currently employed as Operations Manager at the Castelletto Hotel in Cavtat. Ms. Karla Labaš (class of 2011) shared her experience as Marketing and PR Manager for the Dubrovnik Summer Festival. Mrs. Ariana Lušić (class of 2005), works as Event and Sales Manager at Karaka Dubrovnik Sig-numiped., and Ms. Andela Matić (class of 2003) shared her experience as PR and Event Manager and Head of Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events (MICE) department with the Dubrovnik Partner agency.

“This was a really great opportunity to learn something new from professionals in their field about business in real world,” said Dubrovnik student Ljubica Vasiljevic. “Every lecture was very useful. Not only did I learn a lot, but also I got a better picture of the advantages and disadvantages of every job. A lot of speakers mentioned the stress of their jobs, but also the happiness and satisfaction when they fill customers’ expectations.”

Later, Mr. Toni Aleksić, Cruise ship department Manager of Elite Travel agency, presented a lecture on destination management. He introduced students to the company’s organizational structure, internal procedures, and services, based on extensive local knowledge, expertise and resources, specializing in the design and implementation of events, activities, tours, transportation and program logistics.

“It was interesting to hear how a young agency like Elite developed, but the best part was about their innovational character and new and interesting methods they use to attract customers and to stay competitive,” said student Ivan Saltaric.

“Every presentation had some kind of advice I can use later in my life and career. I am really grateful for this experience and I find it very helpful for the future challenges. As a student, I find it was very motivational and a great lesson,” student Ivan Saltaric.

As part of the guest speaker series, Hilton Imperial hotel, the Dubrovnik campus’s five-star neighbor, invited students for presentation on their core values followed by a hotel tour. Hilton’s Human Resource Manager Mrs. Zorica Dučić lead this interesting presentation on the Hilton vision. In the same hospitable spirit, Hilton prepared refreshments for all participants, and later during the hotel tour, RIT Croatia students had opportunity to see various departments, rooms and services Hilton offers to its guests.

“It was a really good experience because we had opportunity to see our future career in hospitality in real situations,” said student Marija Stankovic. “Guest speakers were impressive and full of knowledge they wanted to share with us. They were very friendly and they answered all of our questions.”

Since Dubrovnik Airport plays a key role in enhancing connectivity and driving tourism growth in the region, the Career Service Office invited Mr. Roko Tolić, Airport Director, to talk to students about airports and tourism. Trends in air transportation business are encouraging airports to market the destination as well, with the primary target being the airline and the secondary target the traveler. Dubrovnik airport plans to invest 245 million Euro in next several years to accommodate rising passenger numbers, expected to hit around 3.98 million by 2032. Some RIT Croatia students who work seasonally at the airport over the last couple of years, had a chance to speak individually with Mr. Tolić.

The final hospitality session was led by Dr. Sc. Mato Brautović on agrotourism in Konavle region. The Brautović family business protects heritage through guest education, storytelling, and uncompromised quality of service and food offered at their agrotourism complex. It was interesting to hear that Family Brautović uses most modern forms of marketing and self-promotion through Internet channels such as Google ads, Google Maps and Facebook.

Marketing and Finance in Zagreb

Guest speakers in Zagreb spoke about their experiences in the marketing industry. The lectures gave students the opportunity to better understand the industry and become familiar with more details of particular marketing disciplines. The lectures were a combination of theory and practical examples, which was very interesting and easy to understand.

Guest speakers discussed the importance of understanding the target audience, identifying brand image, positioning, digital campaigns, market research, events, creative designs, events organization, creating the customer experience.

Alumna Adela Marković (class of 2007), now Division Director for “Brand” Croatia at the Croatian National Tourist Board, spoke about the importance of branding for Croatian tour-
im in her talk, “Delivering the meal...but is that enough for a dining experience?”

Mr. Nikola Vrdoljak, Partner and Director of Agency 404, shared his experience in digital marketing, and Mr. Damir Ciglar, director of Imago creative and advertising agency, gave a presentation on the importance of creativity. Helena Folnegović, Client Executive, of The Nielsen Company, a market research and consulting firm, spoke about market research in the business decision making process, and Antonia Radić, director of Ex-Alto agency, spoke about experience as a focus of events management.

“Attending marketing month lectures was great,” said Nikolina Trčak, sophomore IB student. “I heard a lot of useful information about marketing in real life. Also, I got a great chance to meet some experts in marketing and to hear a lot about their experience. I am glad to attend all of the lectures because I got a certificate as a proof of my additional knowledge.”

“Being a sophomore, this year I really got to learn a lot of marketing in theory. However, in my mind there was always this idea of marketing as an incredibly broad and vague area of business. These lectures enabled me to learn about experiences in marketing from people in successful companies. They helped me understand what real-life marketing is like, and how its theory is actually applied in practice,” said Gabrijela Brigljević, sophomore IB student. “Also, what I found very encouraging was that all lecturers were rather young, but in their lectures they still proved their experience and expertise in their field.”

Marketing lectures helped me to understand the topics I’m currently learning during my Principles of Marketing course even better. Since I’m interested in topics such as human resources, PR and digital media, it was a pleasure to participate and hear our guests talking about the marketing methods and strategies in their business, said sophomore IB student Ante Kurtović.

“The last lecture about Events Management by Miss Radić was especially important for me. Since my hobby is video and website production, it was amazing to hear about different methods of creating promotion projects.”

November lectures at the Zagreb campus focused on the field of finance, and the first speaker was one of RIT Croatia’s own graduates, Dario Vilović, CEO of Neta Capital Croatia, who brought the topic of Investment Funds closer to students. More than 120 students from all generations attended the session. After the lecture Mr. Vilovic and his colleague Mr. Mirko Matić spent additional time with our students answering all the questions and sharing their experiences and advice.

“I really enjoyed the finance lecture by Neta Capital. I am interested in finance and this lecture helped me to get a better insight to this specific industry. Also, I received a lot of information about investing and portfolio management,” said junior IB student Taja Grubišić. “These lectures are really useful since we can see which companies are operating successfully on the Croatian market. Also, with first-hand experience, we can easier understand and connect what we actually learn in classes and what will be expected from us in the workplace.”

Intersession courses: Catch up or forge ahead

the course contents. This may help some students focus on aspects of the course with which they may have had trouble the first time around. Finally, smaller section sizes encourage both in-class and out-of-class team learning.”

Many RIT Croatia students completed summer courses in June 2014, in subjects such as Computational Problem Solving, Applied Calculus, Introduction to Statistics, Principles of Microeconomics, Financial Accounting, and Corporate Finance. Many students said the experience was definitely worth it.

“I decided to enroll in a summer course partly because it was different, and partly because I was falling short on my credits. I picked Microeconomics because of my previous – failed – experience with the course,” said Zagreb campus student Mate Vukčević. “The group was small, which was great. There were ten of us, and we all really got to know each other very well. We spent more time with each other than we would normally on a regular semester course. We studied together, participated more actively in class, had fantastic group projects, and had fun.”

“On the other hand, we had to do a whole semester’s worth of work in a shorter amount of time. But a more individualized approach to a smaller group makes it easier to understand and overcome the material.”

“I took the Summer Economics course because I had recently transferred from IT to Business, and I wished to get some of the classes finished as soon as possible—to catch up on two years of failed attempts to crack IT,” said Zagreb campus student Chris Wallace.

“The course was informative and interesting, and Professor Samardzija had a more open classroom environment. We had conversations rather than simply listening; she definitely liked asking us our opinions on certain topics—such as current articles from the Economist. The smaller class was smaller and more personal.”

“Tiger Term was a great opportunity for me to teach a small section with plenty of interaction with students and daily focus on Microeconomics,” said prof. Jasmina Samardžija. “The group was a combination of students who wanted to accelerate finishing their degree, and those who were taking the course for the second time. I found that student scores on exams were much higher than average because we had plenty of time, and lots of individual attention. The small group created a synergy effect, and students were really able to learn from and help each other.”

“Intersession lectures are more condensed, and although some might think they would be harder to follow, many students find they are actually easier, since there is not much time to forget material between lectures,” said prof. Kristijan Tabak. “And, since most students take just one course during intersession, they can devote all their concentration and focus to one subject.”

“The intensity is rather high, and the course feels very “fast”, particularly in intersession, where you literally do one week’s worth of classes in one day. Students need to absorb material very fast, and be diligent from the first class on,” said Prof. Peter Schmidt. “But I’ve seen it more than once that a student who failed or withdrew a course during the semester turned into an A student in intersession. It’s not the rule, of course, but intersession works for those who simply had some adjusting difficulties in their first semester and got their act together for the Tiger Term. Intersession is also ideal for adept students who are late beginners or transfer students, to pick up credits quickly and progress towards their degree.”

Continued from front cover
RIT Croatia campuses in Zagreb and Dubrovnik joined thousands of their RIT colleagues around the world for a live celebration of the opening of a newly-renovated ice hockey rink and athletic center on the Rochester, NY campus in October. Connected live via video link with campuses in Rochester, as well as Kosovo, students, faculty and staff from the Croatia campuses shared their enthusiasm in the One SpiRIT event.

Community Service Day

Continuing the college’s annual tradition of volunteering in service to the local community, students, faculty and staff of the Dubrovnik campus gathered at the Marin Držić elementary school in October, to help repaint areas of the school for children with special needs, and clean up the garden areas around the school.

Basketball tournament

The RIT Croatia Basketball club organized a tournament in Dubrovnik in November, featuring current students, alumni and faculty and staff competing on the court in three games. Current students beat both alumni and faculty/staff, while alumni beat faculty/staff.

Alumni Team included Petar Boro, Antonio Jerić, Antonio Jerkunica, Toni Ljubetić, Marko Meker, Ivo Tomić and Duje Tudor. RIT Croatia faculty and staff team included Don Hudspeth, Ambroz Ćivljak and Mario Ljubišić. Student team members were Dino Zanini, Gregor Ettinger, Gregory Bonlić, Dino Herak, Gjorgji Popov, Marko Vojnović, Nikola Jovanović, Mario Mijalić, Bruno Duje Penić and Katarina Popović.

The tournament was held in support of Perica Mijović Dugi, a former professional basketball player with the Cibona team, whose dedication and support made possible the foundation for the first RIT Croatia Tigers basketball team in Dubrovnik in 1999.

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