Some 37 members of Zagreb campus’ very first graduating class, along with 45 colleagues in Dubrovnik, proudly accepted their diplomas in May, marking the end of one phase of their education, and the beginning of many exciting career paths in international hospitality and service management, information technology and international business.

As graduating seniors on both campuses look back on their student days, and prepare to start new phases in their lives, they shared their plans for the future, as well as memories of RIT Croatia.

Tomislav Cvetko, the IB Valedictorian of the graduating class in Zagreb, is already employed as a Business Associate intern with Google Adriatic in Zagreb, a position he started during his co-op. In August, he will start a position as Business Analyst with McKinsey & Company consulting in Zagreb.

Among the Dubrovnik campus graduates, Marcela Biuk will soon be leaving Croatia for the United Arab Emirates, where she has been hired in customer relations for Doubletree Resorts by Hilton.

“This is a really exciting opportunity for me,” she said. “I know it won’t always be easy, especially being so far from home in a totally different culture, but my education at RIT Croatia really prepared me for this. I’m looking forward to the challenge.”

Romana Vlačić and Luka Lončar have been hired by Penkridge Adriatic, a consulting and research firm in Zagreb. Luka is working as a research analyst. Romana, having started as an intern during her coop, has been hired as Regional Coordinator.

“I’m definitely learning a lot, it’s a great start to my career,” she said. Romana also recently became the secretary of the board of the United Kingdom Friendship Society, a non-profit organization that focuses on building a relationship between the UK and Croatia.

Tea Maček is another graduating senior whose successful coop experience led her to a permanent job. Continued on page 7
RIT Croatia Joins Erasmus +
Student and faculty mobility program promotes exchange throughout Europe

Erasmus + is a student exchange program financed by the European Commission which provides a first time experience for living, studying and working in another European country. It is very popular among European students, and also provides an opportunity for faculty to teach at partner institutions, as well as for administrative staff to advance their skills at foreign institutions.

RIT Croatia joined Erasmus + in 2014 and students immediately started taking advantage of the opportunity to expand their educational experiences. Our first incoming student was Celine Michel who came from La Rochelle Business School in France. We are expecting more students in the Fall Semester, through our network of six international partner universities from Germany, Turkey, Poland, Italy, and France.

In 2015 we are sending two RIT Croatia students to study exchange. Dora Biškup will travel to Tarnow, Poland, to study and Andrea Malić will be going to Milan, Italy.

In addition, five students were approved as Erasmus trainees. Marko Madecki, Christin Misir, Karlo Bibić, Ana Buhin and Luka Alauopović will receive grants for working in Germany, Austria and the UK.

Looking to the future, the expansion of our network is underway. We expect it to soon expand to 20 universities, and will concentrate on building quality of partner relationships, which will include regular student and faculty exchange, harmonization of programs, and joint projects, explained RIT Croatia’s Erasmus Coordinator, Professor Domagoj Nikolić.

“We strongly believe that we can all benefit from exchanging students, faculty, staff and knowledge, and that our students will be the true ambassadors of RIT Croatia wherever they go,” he said.

RIT za Pava!
College community supports rehabilitation for injured student

At RIT Croatia we do not hesitate to help in a time of need! Especially when it comes to our fellow students: 24-year-old Pavo Hadžija had a severe car accident this Christmas Eve and is currently in intensive physical rehabilitation in Germany.

Finding out about the required rehabilitation and treatments, RIT students, professors and student government members all readily contributed to raise funds for his treatment, through several humanitarian events. Homemade cookies and cakes with a good cause tasted even better, when the profits were being donated to a good cause. Dubrovnik and Zagreb campus collected 6400 kuna through bake sales. In addition, the Student Government donated its team building budget to Pavo’s account. And finally, to contribute even more, the leadership of the college made a 1000 Euro donation to help Pavo’s treatment. Donation boxes at the reception of Dubrovnik and Zagreb campus were not left empty either.

All RIT Croatia, students and faculty keep Pavo in their thoughts and send best wishes for his recovery and return to the college.

You can help!
Send a donation to help Pavo, through the “Svi za Pava” facebook page
Scan the code or go to: http://on.fb.me/17sUOwy

RIT CROATIA REPORTER
2
**Faculty scholarship**

**Prof. Nikolić researches ancient archeological site in Macedonia**

*RIT Croatia Professor Domagoj Nikolić is a long-time researcher of ancient sites and a member of a multidisciplinary research team studying the architecture, geometry and physical properties of ancient structures. He is currently working on a project that studies an ancient site called Geoglyph near Sveti Nikole, in Macedonia, an artificial mound with a large symbol on its top consisting of an axis perfectly aligned with North-South and an attached symbol, which looks like letter “W” or “M”.

The shape of the glyph is consistent with the shape of the constellation of Cassiopeia. The sky rotating around the Sidereal North Pole and Cassiopeia appears right above the glyph at sunrise at 04:32 am, between the 20th and 22nd of July. As the date corresponds to the birth date of Alexander the Great, and the sunrise and the time of his birth in the morning, this could be an indication that this site could be the royal tomb of Macedonian kings.

The project functions under the umbrella of the University of Trieste, Italy, and includes an international team of experts from Italy, Macedonia, Serbia, the UK, and Finland.

In this research, the team used eight different types of sensors, microphones and hydrophones including a 3D sensor capable of determining the position of underground cavities.

In result, the team was able to confirm that there are significant differences in radiation at different locations on the hill. This variance is an indication of an underground structure, presumably not very deep. Their findings formed the basis for a paper published at the 3rd Virtual International Conference of Advanced Research in Scientific Areas facilitated by University of Zilina, Slovakia.

*Prof. Domagoj Nikolic, third from left, with his research team, and the Mayor of Sveti Nikole, Zoran Tasev, third from right*

**Prof. Larisa Buhin wins research grant**

**Investigating student resilience: thriving in the face of difficulty**

*Professor of Psychology Dr. Larisa Buhin was recently awarded an RIT Faculty Connect Grant for research and professional development. The grant will support a qualitative investigation of resilience of young people in Croatia and Kosovo.

“The concept of resilience is not as well understood as we would like, especially in Southeast Europe,” she explained. “Resilience is the capacity of individuals to continue to thrive and live productive lives in the face of difficult events, be they of personal or broader political and economic nature. Psychologists and other social scientists are very interested in understanding and promoting resilience.”

Dr. Buhin has already begun cooperation with a research team at the University of California Santa Barbara, which is investigating resilience in Latino students in the US.

The Connect Grants are a part of a larger RIT initiative “to increase the representation of female faculty in sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at RIT.”

The project is funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation, an agency of the United States federal government.

RIT, like many other institutions of higher education, is aware that women faculty in higher ranks are underrepresented, particularly in the natural and social and behavioral sciences, and is attempting to improve the current situation.

“It is a great credit that RIT fully included its international campuses in this initiative showing its ongoing commitment to being a leader in global education,” Prof. Buhin said.

“I am excited about receiving this grant for many reasons, particularly since I will work under the mentorship of Dr. Vincent Serravallo from RIT. Dr. Serravallo is an expert in qualitative research methodology. Since he is a sociologist, he will contribute a multidisciplinary perspective to the whole project.”

“Another thing that makes me particularly happy about this grant is that it provides modest funding for student assistants. Qualitative research is very labor intensive and having a good research team is essential. For me, that team has been made up of two extraordinary undergraduate students: Eni Hoyka and Filip Macukic. I’m looking forward to working with them and giving them an opportunity to participate in this research project.”

*Dr. sc. Milivoj Marković was elected to the Croatian academic title of Predavač (Lecturer) in the scientific area of the Social Sciences in the field of Economics.*

*Dr. sc. Jasmina Daučina was elected to the Croatian academic title of profesor višoke škole (College Professor) in the scientific area of the Social Sciences in the field of Economics.*

*Professors Milena Kuzmin, Zrinka Friganović Sain, and Rebecca Charry presented a talk on “Intercultural Competence in Business and Management Studies” at the 3rd Annual International conference of Philology, Medimurje Philology Days, at the Teachers College of the Faculty of Philology in Croatia. University of Zagreb. Their bilingual presentation was based on their forthcoming research paper, which investigates the teaching of intercultural competence at the Dubrovnik campus of RIT Croatia.*

**SPRING 2015**

*Image 168x555 to 433x708*
More than 150 graduates of RIT Croatia gathered together in March to renew friendships, share memories and plan for future cooperation during an evening of fun and laughter. Alumni from all over the globe (Dubrovnik and other Croatian cities, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Montenegro and even Qatar) travelled for a weekend getaway to Dubrovnik to see their old RIT friends, as well as their dear professors and staff members.

“All generations were represented at our spring Alumni event and we sure could not miss the RIT spirit,” said Alumni association president Ana Jarak. “So many alumni attended the afternoon brainstorming session that we did not have enough chairs, again! I truly feel proud to be part of such an amazing group of people and I can hardly wait to meet everyone again at our next event.”

“As the years since our graduation go by, I tend to like our Alumni events more and more, said Vedran Perjojević, who graduated in 2008 and today is owner of the successful Azur restaurants in Old Town Dubrovnik and Zhuhai, China. “It was very well organized and it gave me the opportunity to look back at old memories and catch up with friends, as well to create new business opportunities.”

In addition to fun, drinks, dancing and socializing, alumni used the opportunity to network and share business ideas, and brainstorm new initiatives for the Alumni Association. Three new initiatives are currently being developed, based on their suggestions.

**Alumni Benefit program**

The Alumni Benefit program will be designed to provide RIT Croatia Alumni with additional benefits, including special discounts on entertainment, dining, travel, transportation, shopping, insurance, and more.

**Alumni Online Community**

On many occasions Alumni expressed an interest in having a platform to help them find and contact their former college colleagues. In that light, RIT Croatia has become a part of a newly formed RIT online networking platform, the online community that will make a difference in alumni lives and careers.

Whether they are aiming to advance in their current field, planning for a new career, moving to another location or looking for a business partner, the RIT Online Community will help them in the search.

**Alumni Humanitarian Fundraising (zaklada)**

This fundraising initiative will raise money to benefit current RIT Croatia students. This will be a completely Alumni driven project, led by a small committee.

“It was absolutely great seeing and spending time with friends and former colleagues at the Alumni event in Dubrovnik,” said Franica Mišloš, a member of the class of 2010, who is now Senior Associate with DUNEA development agency in Dubrovnik.

“It was a pleasure to participate in the creation of the Alumni Foundation which is a long-term project, and to contribute to the improvement and advancement of the community. This is an opportunity to focus our enthusiasm, knowledge and previous experience into its creation. The Alumni Online Community and Benefit Program will help us share information and ideas, and also promote our already well formed community.”

“I was absolutely an amazing weekend in Dubrovnik!” Ivana Mandić, a member of the class of 2007, and currently Head of Finance and Accounting, for Genera Research. “It is great to have an opportunity to catch up with old friends and remind ourselves of the college days (which for sure was the best time of our lives). I am very proud to be a part of such an extraordinary group of people!”
Dubrovnik IT students win Hackathon challenge

Dubrovnik IT students Andrej Šarić, Dživo Jelić and Ivan Brčić recently earned second place in Dubrovnik’s first 48-hour hackathon challenge, creating a prototype of a mobile phone application for tourists from scratch in just two days.

“This was the first time that anything like this happened in Dubrovnik, and we knew right away that we had to be a part of it,” Andrej said. “Our idea was an application that would allow users to be informed about services that Dubrovnik Card has to offer. The application also includes an interactive tour guide that would allow users to get information about monuments as soon as they approach.”

The event was organized by the City of Dubrovnik and the DURA development agency. IT professor Iva Bačić participated in the Hackathon as one of the judges.

“The contestants were focused mostly on enabling smarter and easier everyday living in Dubrovnik, thus having in mind the improvement of quality of life,” said Prof. Bačić. “As far as our students are concerned, these young individuals successfully implemented the knowledge gained at RIT Croatia in their “Libertas App”, designed to monitor public transportation.”

“Andrej, Ivan and Dživo focused on creating a mobile application, but they added beacon technology as well. Their idea was to set beacon transmitters in the vicinity of important sights, with special emphasis on the Old Town of Dubrovnik. When the user is near the beacon transmitter, the screen shows detailed information about that specific sight. This application can detect how many tourists are in front of a certain sight and if it is crowded, it redirects users to other sights in order to avoid crowding.”

The students developed their application for two different platforms, even though they had not worked with beacon technology before: they only had theoretical knowledge of it. Yet, they managed to turn their idea into the application within 48 hours. This application could be a reality soon, in order to enhance the existing Dubrovnik Card for tourists.

“The atmosphere during the whole weekend was really motivating since each team worked really hard and mentors encouraged us,” Andrej said.

“It is a great privilege for me as their professor to watch these students grow and progress,” Prof. Bačić said. “All of us at RIT Croatia really have something to proud of.”

Valedictorians
Nicole Seymour and Tomislav Cvetko were selected as Valedictorians of their classes, representing the Dubrovnik and Zagreb campuses, respectively, and represented their classes with inspiring speeches at Croatia campus commencement ceremonies. Tomislav also traveled to the Rochester, New York, campus to attend convocation as an honored guest in the platform party.

Four outstanding undergraduate scholars
Four graduating senior students were named Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars, in recognition of their academic achievement and service to the community: Mihaela Čališ, Nicole Seymour, Tomislav Cvetko, and Goran Pekica.

This award recognizes consistent academic excellence by students throughout their undergraduate careers. The award is open to all seniors with a minimum 3.4 GPA. Eligible seniors are nominated by the faculty and ultimately selected by a college committee at RIT. Ninety students were selected at RIT this year to receive this honor. Mihaela, Nicole, Tomislav and Goran will receive medallions at graduation to recognize their achievements.

Puttin’ on the RITz
Dubrovnik campus IHSM student Jelena Baričević was selected to represent the program at the annual Puttin’ on the RITz event in Rochester in April. Jelena spent one week at the campus, attending classes, meeting students and professors and participating in the famous RITz dinner, an annual black tie formal dinner, which is organized and executed entirely by students. The annual dinner and fundraiser is completely student-run, including planning, entertainment and décor, serving more than 200 guests who attend the event each year.

Imagine RIT
IT student Luka Dragičević was selected to represent Dubrovnik campus at the annual Imagine RIT Festival in May. Luka spent one week at the Rochester to participate in this annual event, and numerous social events. The Imagine RIT Festival is a series of exhibits and activities meant to showcase the interesting projects that RIT student students and community members have been working on. It is designed to demonstrate what can be accomplished when, as RIT President Bill Destler says, “the right and left brain collide.”
Student Government Consortium in Zagreb
Uniting RIT’s Five Global Campuses

More than 30 students and administrators from all five of RIT’s global campuses gathered at the Zagreb campus in January, for the annual Student Government Consortium.

This event brings students and administrators together at a different global campus each year, to share thoughts and ideas on the student experience, and exchange best practices from each campus. The purpose is to continually improve student life at RIT.

“This event helps us establish even better cooperation among campuses, and better utilize all resources made available to us through RIT,” said Mirna Sorajić, president of the RIT Croatia Student Government. “I’m still fascinated by the fact that I belong to an amazing university that has over 18,000 students worldwide. As a student representative, I am able to make a change and contribute to overall efforts of improving the student life at RIT.”

Organizing the consortium was a great experience for the Croatian students, serving as the host to colleagues from Henrietta (Rochester), Kosovo, and Dubai, as well as Dubrovnik and Zagreb.

“The experience of representing not only my campus, but my country as well, was so valuable,” said Una Pašić, vice president of Student Government at RIT Croatia. “We got to know the structures of SG on each campus, and tried to select the best practices, to improve what we do. Some of the next steps include using useful websites and applications at our disposal thanks to the U.S. campus.”

RIT Student Government President Ashley Carrington and Vice President Tyler Pierce represented the Rochester campus.

“We were very specific about the type of support we could expect from each other and give to one another and include other students,” said Tyler Pierce. “One thing we will definitely do is an annual event for all students at which we will promote different cultures and activities from all campuses in order to bring the overall student community closer together.”

“The trip and the consortium exceeded all expectations. Not only did we come up with ideas that we plan to implement soon, but also we became real good friends in just three days,” said Ashley Carrington. “Zagreb is a beautiful city and the memories I carry from Croatia and the memories I carry from Croatia include beautiful people, the culture and the university that enabled me to visit this place.”

Anthony Ghanime, representing RIT Dubai, was moved by the experience. “I think that every student is proud of his or her university in a way. However, when you attend a university that is proud of its students and continuously shows that... Well, that’s rare. And that’s why I love this university. Participating in the Zagreb consortium only made me more aware of the responsibilities I have as Dubai students’ representative. We worked really hard, but had tons of fun as well. It was phenomenal.”

RIT administrators, including Senior Vice President for Student Affairs Sandra Johnson and Dawn Souffleris, associate vice president of Student Affairs, also presented at the consortium, including a talk about the special skills and attributes of millennial generation and their educational needs. Next year’s consortium will be held in the “States,” a.k.a. Henrietta.

Live from SG consortium – a student blog

When I joined RIT as a freshman over a year ago, I never imagined all the amazing opportunities that awaited me. One thing that definitely changed my student life for the better was joining the Student Government and being able to actively participate in the creation of a better college experience for all students.

Being part of SG, like any other job, has its hardships, but events like the RIT Student Government Global Consortium make the effort worth it. The spirit of cooperation and partnership at this event was amazingly productive and emotionally invigorating. Our RIT community spreads across the globe, from Dubrovnik to New York then to Dubai and Zagreb. We are all connected, sharing common goals, worries, aspirations and expectations.

Every year, student representatives from each of our campuses come together in one location for meetings, presentations and fun. Last year’s event was held in Dubai, and this year we in Zagreb had to prove ourselves as hosts.

The actual event lasted for three days, starting off with a casual but delicious dinner so all of us could get to know each other and break the ice. After about five minutes of the awkward silence where everybody kind of gawked at each other with silly grins, we slowly started talking and trying to make friends.

However, the following morning started out much more serious, business-like and academic. We started off early in the morning with inspiring speeches from our Dean, Don Hudspeth, Dr. Jim Watters from RIT and other RIT administrators.

Our meetings included an amazing presentation by Dawn Meza Souffleris, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Residential Education & Community Standards at RIT New York (just one of the amazing people this kind of event allowed us to meet). The presentation was focused on the millennial generation – today’s current students, or in other words, us! She explained how we function, why do we think the way we do, how different we are from previous generations and even the differences among Millennials throughout the globe.
After her second co-op with Nestle in category channel sales development (trade marketing department), she was recently hired by the company as trainee in generating demand. Also, throughout senior year Tea worked in Henkel as a human resources intern.

Mihaela Čališ, who was honored as an Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar, will continue her career at Oradian, a micro-finance startup.

"RIT Croatia really helped me learn to deal with people of different cultural backgrounds," she said. “That skill will definitely help me in my career.”

Josip Šuta, IHSM senior, is excited about starting a new job in his field of interest, as property and sales manager with a private touristic agency in Dubrovnik. Goran Pekica has been hired as a researcher with Alexander Hughes executive search consultants.

Other students have opened their own businesses, or plan to pursue advanced academic degrees.

Christian Petersen, recently founded of his own marketing company, TRES Media. Graduate Filip Nola will be continuing his education at the University of Edinburgh, where he has enrolled in a master’s degree program in Marketing and Business Analysis.

“RIT Croatia boosted my confidence and made me a more knowledgeable person,” said graduating senior Mislav Peček, who is considering job offers from the US Embassy in Zagreb and Valamar Riviera Hotels and Resort. “I’m thankful to all the faculty and staff for widening my worldview.”

Afterwards we went straight down to business and for days we presented our SG’s to each other, explaining everything from our structure, our by-laws, our projects and our events. This needed to be done in order to gain a better understanding about how each campus works, how we can help each other and what we can change. We are working on creating a logo for the global campuses, an annual global event and implementing various ideas from each campus that can be utilized to make a better student life for everyone.

One idea Croatian students particularly loved was Dubai’s idea of “stress relievers” during final exams (if I had free coffee and donuts in finals week I would probably have gained about 5 kg but never mind :P).

RIT Henrietta (New York) completely blew our minds with the number of students they represent, their SG structure and the ingenuity of their plans. They presented some amazing new websites and apps we could use to connect the campuses even better.

I have to say I am proud of Croatia as a whole since all of our guests were amazed by how cohesively we work as a group seeing that we are two campuses (Dubrovnik and Zagreb) and were also pleasantly surprised regarding the number of events we put on for our students (especially volunteer events).

At the alumni dinner where we had the incredible opportunity to meet all successful people who used to be RIT students and are still proud to be part of the RIT family. Hearing their stories about how our college used to be like and the way they think about it fondly makes us even more proud. Not to mention the chance to network with people working in the lines of business we are hoping to work in but also getting interview options and co-op offers.

The last day we made sure that our friends (I can no longer say guests since they have grown so close to my heart even friends seems too much of a casual term) had such a good time that will make them remember Zagreb forever! I can tell you one thing though, they can dance, and I mean dance like crazy! It was so much fun that when it came to an end, there were group hugs, individual hugs, speeches and even tears. It is so hard to imagine that after just three days of conversing we had all grown so close. I am grateful to RIT for helping me grow each day as a student, as a leader, and as a person.

Nikolina Pušić contributed reporting from Dubrovnik
Zagreb Spring Games

RITchie on the Stradun at the annual Dubrovnik Fun Run

Dubrovnik school children love the Fun Run!

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CROATIA

DUBROVNIK
Don Frana Bulica 6
20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
Phone +385 (20) 433 000

ZAGREB
Damira Tomljanovića Gavrana 15
10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Phone +385 (1) 643 9100

RIT CROATIA REPORTER

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Rebecca Charry

DESIGN
Danijel Bešlić

PRINTING
Balbo d.o.o. Zagreb

www.croatia.rit.edu
ritcroatia@croatia.rit.edu