

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED MACEDONIAN DIASPORA

UMD QUARTERLY

www.umdiaspora.org

Issue 1 - Summer 2007

UNITED WE CAN!

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H. Res. 356

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Washington, D.C.



UNITED MACEDONIAN DIASPORA

ОБЕДИНЕТА МАКЕДОНСКА ДИЈАСПОРА



Interview with Macedonian
Ambassador Jolevski



Interview with Eurovision
Contestant Karolina Goceva



**UMD Quarterly
Issue 1
Summer 2007**

UMD Quarterly is published every fall, winter, spring, and summer and aims to keep UMD members and friends informed and up-to-date on issues pertaining to Macedonia, the Macedonian Diaspora as well as updates on UMD activities.



Cover photo of Ohrid: M. Koloski

Welcome to the 1st issue of UMD Quarterly!

Dear Reader,

Over the past few months we have been working on developing a publication for our members and supporters highlighting the achievements and important work of the United Macedonian Diaspora ("UMD"). The final product could not have been possible without the help of UMD's staff volunteers, particularly the graphic designer, Damjan Arsovski, and Editor Alexander Krstevski.

I am sure many of you remember the beginning phases of UMD because many of you were signatories to our petition on pertinent issues of concern to Macedonians around the world – the name issue, civil rights for our fellow Macedonians in Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, and Serbia, economic development, and regional and territorial stability. We collected over 40,000 signatures! **Without your support then, UMD would not be where it is now.**

Today, we are pleased to report that the United Macedonian Diaspora stands at the forefront of a comprehensive, non-partisan, sustainable Diaspora-wide effort to irrevocably ensure Macedonia's freedom, democracy, and security. UMD continues to be a vibrant bridge between the Diaspora communities and Macedonia.

Now, more than ever, we need your support and help to make a difference for Macedonia's future by providing the necessary resources to help Macedonians meet their continuing challenges. I invite you to become a member of the United Macedonian Diaspora today and help us expand the important scope of work that we do.

As we enter the next phase of UMD's work, we thank our members and friends for your continued support. In the months ahead, you can expect a stronger, more efficient and more innovative United Macedonian Diaspora.

Sincerely,

Metodija A. Koloski
President



**UNITED
MACEDONIAN
DIASPORA**
ОБЕДИНЕТА МАКЕДОНСКА ДИЈАСПОРА
UNITED WE CAN!

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Founded in 2004, the United Macedonian Diaspora is an international organization addressing the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities throughout the world. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., the UMD has affiliate offices around the world including Brussels, Canberra, London, Melbourne, New York, and Toronto.

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UNITED MACEDONIAN DIASPORA ОБЕДИНЕТА МАКЕДОНСКА ДИЈАСПОРА

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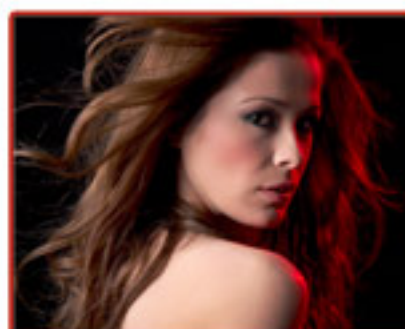
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**Interview with Macedonian
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**Interview with Eurovision
Contestant Karolina Goceva**

After an unsuccessful bid to win the 2002 Eurovision Contest, landing her in 19th place, Karolina Goceva is going at it again, this time more confident than ever. Karolina won the Macedonian Eurosong competition with the song "Mojot Svet," beating out 20 competitors by a wide margin...

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For information on news concerning Republic of Macedonia and Macedonians around the world and for information regarding United Macedonian Diaspora visit our daily-updated web site:

www.umdiaspora.org

UMD Branch based in Canberra, Australia



Why Should You Join UMD's branch in Australia?

The United Macedonian Diaspora's branch in Australia is the fastest growing organisation in the Australian-Macedonian community.

UMD's branch in Australia is necessary in order to:

- Secure the civil rights and safety of Macedonians around the world, including Macedonian communities in Australia;
- Intensify the bonds of solidarity among the Macedonians of Australia;
- Coordination with and act on behalf of the Macedonian communities in Australia before public, governmental, and international authorities on matters of importance;
- Cooperate with all people on the basis of peace, freedom, equality, self-determination, and justice.

Make a Difference!

Get Involved!

Become a member of UMD's branch in Australia TODAY!

Dear Australian-based Readers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and assistance over the past few years. The United Macedonian Diaspora ("UMD") relies on the commitment of its members and volunteers for its success.

In 2007, UMD has much to achieve. In general, we will continue to work for the rights of Macedonians and Macedonian communities across the world and for Macedonia's integration into the European Union and NATO organizations. In Australia, we have a number of specific projects that we plan to launch very soon. These include a campaign for the recognition of Macedonia's constitutional name by the Australian Government and increased political and economic cooperation between Australia and Macedonia.

The profile of United Macedonian Diaspora in Australia has been lifted as a result of effective media relations and strategic networking.

For example, UMD has attracted significant media exposure in Australia and is especially grateful for the support given by Mr. Ljupco Stankovski, Editor-in-Chief of the Australian Macedonian Weekly. This has facilitated our membership drive and has raised the public profile of the organisation and its activists. Media and Stakeholder Relations form an integral part of UMD's Communication and Engagement Strategy. UMD's branch in Canberra, Australia is also in the process of preparing an Australia section to be hosted on the UMD website.

UMD representatives living in Australia (Igor Zvezdakoski and Ordan Andreevski) attended the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Awards dinner at the Crown Palladium in Melbourne on March 26, 2007 where they mingled with leading philanthropists, American and Australian diplomats, politicians, public policy advisers, senior academics, top business leaders, and the media.

On the research front, UMD's branch in Canberra, Australia is exploring the possibility of attracting sponsors for an Australia Research Council Linkage Project lead by Assoc. Prof. Danny Ben-Moshe from Victoria University titled 'Comparative Diasporas.' The project is scheduled to start in 2008 and could provide valuable research in support of creating a sustainable future for the Australian Macedonian community.

Over the following months, we will be seeking your support, particularly in relation to the name recognition campaign. You are well aware that the Macedonians in Australia are the underdogs in regards to this issue and that is why we need to work together – UMD needs to work efficiently, professionally, and collaboratively to succeed in our goals.

Further, I encourage you to contact either UMD headquarters or myself by calling me at 0414 441 579, or by e-mail tvangelovski@umdiaspora.org should you have any questions, ideas or if you would like to volunteer for any specific tasks.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Vangelovski
Director, UMD Australia

Members of Congress Concerned Over Use of 'FYROM' in NATO Bill



Congressmen Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Mark Souder (R-IN) sent a letter on March 27, 2007 to President George Bush expressing their concern over the use of the acronym 'FYROM' in the Senate Bill 494 also known as the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007. The United Macedonian Diaspora worked together with these representatives and their staff to prevent the inclusion of the acronym.

UMD sincerely thanks the National Federation of Croatian Americans and the American Bosnian Association for their letters to Congressman Tom Lantos, the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee supporting the constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia.

Though motivated, our organization can only succeed in its goals through solidarity with unbiased third parties, capable of distinguishing the gross injustices carried out in the name of national chauvinism. We applaud their courage and integrity and offer our heartfelt gratitude.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

There is a very sensitive situation regarding legislation being sent to you by the Congress that we believe merits your immediate attention.

While we salute the passage of S. 494 because it supports the timely and proper admission of Macedonia, among other countries, into NATO in 2008, we are deeply concerned with a provision that the Senate added to its version of the bill. Specifically, the bill you will be asked to sign now contains language that refers to Macedonia not under its official name, the "Republic of Macedonia," but as "Macedonia (FYROM)."

Many of us know that the term "FYROM" is considered derogatory and unfair to Macedonians. Today, Macedonia is an independent and sovereign country, while the country Yugoslavia no longer exists. Every nation has the right to self-determination, and Macedonians have chosen their name. This right is embedded in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That is why the United States has rightfully recognized Macedonia by its constitutional name since November 2004.

Furthermore, approximately 120 countries around the world, including Russia, China, Poland, and Turkey, all formally recognize Macedonia under the constitutional name "Republic of Macedonia."

Macedonian troops are fighting alongside our American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Introducing this insulting abbreviation will be a negative morale boost for our ally's support in the Middle East. The language in the passed legislation is thoughtless at best, reckless at worst and steps must be undertaken to resolve this issue.

We formally request that upon signing this mostly meritorious bill, that you take the opportunity to reiterate American policy regarding the name of the Republic of Macedonia. We hope that we can work together to help ensure the dignified treatment of our friend and ally.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress


Mark E. Souder
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

President Bush Signs the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007

Source: White House
For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary

April 10, 2007

President Bush Signs the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007

On Monday, April 9, 2007, the President signed into law: S. 494, the "NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007," which reaffirms support for continued enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); designates Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia, and Ukraine as eligible to receive assistance under the NATO Participation Act of 1994; and authorizes FY 2008 appropriations for certain military assistance for these countries.



Interview with Macedonia's Ambassador to the United States

Ambassador Dr. Zoran Jolevski

by Meto Koloski



Macedonian Embassy In Washington, D.C. (Photo: Embassy Website)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Ambassador Jolevski has come to Washington, D.C. at a very important time for Macedonia, which is hoping to join NATO in 2008. His focuses while in Washington will be to secure membership into NATO, strengthen economic and political ties with the United States, work with the Macedonian Diaspora, and promote Macedonian cultural and tourism.

Ambassador Jolevski was born in Skopje in 1959 and has led an active career in Macedonian politics. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics, a Masters in Law, and a PhD in International Economics from Sts. Kiril and Metodij University. Some notable positions formerly held by the Ambassador include Secretary of the

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Macedonia to the World Trade Organization and the United Nations in Geneva, Deputy National Coordinator of Humanitarian Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the Kosovo Refugee Crisis in 1999, Chief of Staff to the late President Boris Trajkovski, and Chief of Party to the USAID funded project "Macedonian Business Environment Activity."

UMD: What are your top priorities as Ambassador to the United States?

Jolevski: Serving as Ambassador in Washington D.C. is an honor for any diplomat, but at the same time it is a great responsibility and a challenge. My priorities while in Washington will be to secure an invitation for Macedonia's membership in NATO, strengthen the economic cooperation between the two countries – that is to say increase the presence of Macedonian products on the United States market which are currently at a low level – encourage potential investors to come to Macedonia, as well as the proper presentation of Macedonian culture, science and other accomplishments of Macedonia in Washington, and the USA. I would like to underline the importance of forming a Macedonian Caucus in the US Congress, as members of the Caucus can be relied upon to support Macedonia in a variety of ways. In accomplishing these endeavors, I want seek out the assistance of the Macedonian-American community in the U.S., which is numerous, but which must be united. I will work together with the Metropolitan of the American-Canadian Macedonian Orthodox Diocese, Bishop Metodij in establishing schools where young Macedonian children will learn about Christianity, as well as learn the Macedonian language and Cyrillic alphabet. Bishop Metodij started these activities and as Ambassador I will give



Ambassador Jolevski with Congressman Souder (Photo: Souder Website)



Ambassador Jolevski with Congressman Pascrell (Photo: Zvonko Veskov)

him full support, because with this we will preserve Macedonian heritage and language amongst our younger generations.

Of course, it is also crucial that we lobby relevant institutions such as the US Congress to ensure that our constitutional name is preserved, as well as reach out to the media, diplomatic community and think-tanks. In short, my activities here will focus on strengthening cooperation between Macedonia and the United States, taking advantage of the economic potential of the U.S. market, so as to expedite economic growth in Macedonia, and last but not least, represent Macedonian society and cultural, something we are very and justly proud of.

UMD: During his recent visit to Skopje, Assistant Secretary Fried stated that Macedonia has yet some progress it needs to make before it receives an invitation to join NATO. What remains to be done?

Jolevski: Ambassador Fried had very fruitful and amicable talks with government officials in Macedonia, during which he stated that the United States supports Macedonia's NATO membership and asked for reforms to continue so that other alliance members also come to fully support our aspirations. Mr. Fried expressed his satisfaction with the achievements so far, particularly in the economic field, as well as the rule of law, the fight against crime and corruption and he added that political dialogue in the country should be increased.



Peter Rendina (Assistant to Congressman Pascrell), Ellis Island Medal of Honor Recipient George Tomov, Slavko Madzarov, Ambassador Jolevski, Congressman Pascrell, Igor Dukovski (2nd Secretary at the Embassy in D.C.), Milo Koloski and Zvonko Veskov at the home of Slavko Madzarov (Photo: Z. Veskov)



Slavko Madzarov and his wife Menka present Congressman Pascrell with a Golden Plaque from the Municipality of Vlasovo, Macedonia for his friendship. (Photo: Z. Veskov)

UMD: The Greek Ambassador in Washington has been actively engaged in portraying a negative picture of Macedonia to policymakers and scholars. Examples include showing maps of a so-called 'greater' Macedonia that supposedly are being used by the Military Academy in Skopje. Do you have a comment on this?

Jolevski: Diplomacy is the skill of making friends. Attacks produce only short-term results that are remembered for a few weeks or months. Diplomacy operates on a long-term basis, and I can only hope that our neighbors and friends understand that Macedonia is their friend. Borders are losing their meaning on the European continent. The goal of true Europeans is a Europe without borders.

UMD: UMD has learned that Greek soldiers recently were caught on video singing anti-Macedonian songs. Do you have any comment on this?

Jolevski: The twenty-first century is an era of globalization, a time when dialogue and collaboration are an inseparable part of the moral values of every individual. Insulting other nations, neighbors and friends is not Christian and deviates from contemporary moral values. Macedonians fight alongside American, British, Australian and soldiers from other nations in a coalition against terror, and we consider our neighbors to be friends. The time of warring nations is behind us. Today's threats come from other sources: non-state terrorism and extremism.

UMD: Apparently, the Greek lobby in Washington managed to push through, with the help of Senator Robert Menendez, an amendment to Senate Bill 494 to include FYROM after every section that says Macedonia. What actions did the Embassy take, since U.S. policy is to refer to Macedonia by its constitutional name?

Jolevski: The Macedonian Embassy in Washington, in cooperation with the United Macedonian Diaspora and other Macedonian-American organizations is actively educating members of Congress. This bill refers to Macedonia's aspirations to join NATO and it does not deal with the name issue. The U.S. Ambassador to

Macedonia, Gillian Milovanovic, the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Rosemary di Carlo, as well as other State Department officials have repeatedly stated that the U.S. will not change its position on the name. For these reasons we should look at this bill as a support for Macedonia's NATO membership. This will contribute to the stability of Macedonia as well as increase its image and attract more foreign investors. International law and justice itself are on our side in the fight over the name issue – this is a fight we will win. Over 120 countries have recognized Macedonia under our constitutional name and all the others, including many EU member states, refer to us as Macedonia in our bilateral relations. As Chief of Staff of former President Boris Trajkovski, I never saw a single statesman use anything but our constitutional name. The acronym is only used within the UN and EU setting.

UMD: Now let's move to a brighter note:

What types of projects do you have in mind to highlight and promote the traditional Macedonian heritage to the American public?

Jolevski: In the first year of my term, I intend to organize a Days of Macedonian Culture in Washington to present both traditional and contemporary Macedonian art. The plan includes performances by Boris Trajanov, Simon Trpcevski and Leb i Sol, and I also hope to have the chance to screen Milco Mancevski's new film. I will also organize a joint opera concert, to include Boris Trajanov and artists from Albania and Croatia.

UMD: How can U.S.-based members of the United Macedonian Diaspora get involved and help the Embassy in its projects? Do you plan to visit any Macedonian-American communities in the near future, and if so, which ones? What messages will you give to these communities?

Jolevski: By this summer, I will visit all the main Macedonian communities in the U.S., talk to our people and explore ways to strengthen cooperation between them and the embassy. My goal is to build a partnership and together work out our priorities. It would be a distinct pleasure, if during my mandate we further strengthen ties within the Macedonian community.

UMD: Finally, do you have a message you want to send to young Macedonian-Americans, the future of our communities and organization?

Jolevski: One of my key messages is to invest in your education, because education will not only empower you, but also better our country. This century is the century of knowledge and the one who possesses it will be stronger. Macedonia will be stronger with a highly educated Diaspora. Let this message also be an appeal to parents to direct their children towards education and personal betterment.

UMD: Thank you Ambassador Jolevski. UMD wishes you much luck in your term as Ambassador.

UMD Meeting with Macedonian Finance Minister



Minister Slaveski (Photo: MK Govt. Website)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Thursday, April 12, 2007, members of the United Macedonian Diaspora met with Macedonian Finance Minister Dr. Trajko Slaveski to discuss the economic situation in the Republic of Macedonia, including ways by which diaspora Macedonians can assist the economic development of Macedonia. The meeting was held at the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia.

Topics discussed included investment, economic initiatives by the Macedonian government, as well as other recent developments. Attendees were impressed to hear that Macedonia announced it will pay off \$137 million of its debt to the World Bank and European Investment Bank, leaving Macedonia with a remaining \$240 million in debt.

The United Macedonian Diaspora thanks Minister Slaveski for taking the time to meet with members of the organization. The United Macedonian Diaspora also thanks Ambassador Dr. Zoran Jolevski for graciously providing meeting space at the embassy.

Stankovic Awarded Prestigious Fulbright Scholarship



Stankovic (Photo: Brinks Website)

CHICAGO - Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, one of the largest intellectual property law firms in the U.S., is pleased to announce that its attorney, Dr. Bratislav Stankovic, is the recipient of a J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship award to help modernize the status of intellectual property in his native country of Macedonia. From September 2007 to mid-January 2008, Dr. Stankovic will lecture and conduct research activities at the University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, to assist in establishing a foundation for the country to begin valuing, protecting and managing its intellectual property assets, in particular, its patentable inventions. Dr. Stankovic is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad this year through the Fulbright Program.

"Recently, a Center for Intellectual Property was established at the Law School Iustinianus Primus at the University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, which has made great progress in creating a reputable intellectual property educational institution and clearinghouse, primarily focused on trademark and copyright law," said Dr. Stankovic. "However, patent law and global patent protection of Macedonian inventions are virtually nonexistent. In the last 15 years, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has granted only one patent that originated in Macedonia. There is a critical and pressing need to expand activities in the education and practice of patent law."

Born in Skopje, Dr. Stankovic received his B.S. in agricultural engineering from the University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and his M.S. in plant physiology from the University of Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. After coming to the United States in 1991, he received his Ph.D. in biological sciences with honors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he received his J.D. with honors. Prior to his legal career, Dr. Stankovic spent 17 years as a scientist in academic settings, including four years as a Chief Scientist at the NASA-funded Wisconsin Center for Space Automation and Robotics at UW-Madison, where he was the principal or co-principal investigator for several experiments on the space shuttle and the International Space Station.

Joining Brinks in 2005, Dr. Stankovic focuses his practice on patent prosecution and litigation in the fields of biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and engineering, specifically molecular biology, developmental biology, biochemistry and nanobiology. He has written more than 30 book chapters and scientific articles that have appeared in peer-reviewed journals, is the author of more than 40 technical articles and abstracts and has provided many invited scientific talks on plant signaling and plant space biology. He is the recipient of numerous honors and is a member of many legal and professional associations. Dr. Stankovic is fluent in English, Macedonian, Serbian and Croatian and is proficient in French.

About the Fulbright Program

The flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, widely known as the Fulbright Program, was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by former Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The program is designed to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries" and over the past sixty years, has provided more than 273,000 participants, chosen for their exemplary leadership potential, the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic, educational and cultural institutions, to exchange ideas and to embark on joint ventures for the betterment and general welfare of the world. The program operates in more than 150 countries.

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UMD President and Vice President Join Macedonian Rights Leaders in Toronto

by UMD Staff

TORONTO – UMD President and Vice President, Metodija A. Koloski, and Aleksandar Mitreski joined Macedonian human rights leaders at the Macedonian Human Rights Movement International's (MHRMI) 20th Anniversary Banquet in Toronto on April 21, 2007. Prominent Macedonian rights leaders including Dr. Kimet Fetahu, Stojko Stojkov, Pavle Voskopoulos, and Father Nikodim Tsarknias from the Macedonian minorities in Albania, Bulgaria, and Greece. Other notable guests at the banquet included Macedonia's Ambassador to Ottawa, Dr. Sashko Nasev, Canadian diplomat of Macedonian descent, Chris Shapardanov, and Members of Canadian Parliament Lui Temelkovski and Yasmin Ratansi.

More than 350 guests gathered under the banner 'ZAEDNO' in support of those dedicated to Macedonian human rights. Meto Koloski gave a short speech at the banquet during which he expressed gratitude for the collaboration between UMD and MHRMI. The following day, Mr. Koloski and Mr. Mitreski attended meetings organized by MHRMI at St. Clement of Ohrid Cathedral for discussions with representatives from church and community organizations active on human rights issues.

While in Canada, the UMD President and Vice President—both based in the United States—had the opportunity to meet with the majority of UMD's Canadian members and supporters to exchange ideas on how the organization can grow and improve.

Macedonian Human Rights Movement International (formerly Macedonian Human Rights Movement of Canada) has been active on human rights issues for Macedonians and other oppressed peoples since 1986. The organization was formed in response to the "Manifesto for Macedonian Human Rights, the Movement for Human and National Rights for the Macedonians of Aegean Macedonia", released in 1984 by the Central Organizing Committee for the Macedonian Human Rights in Salonica, Greece.



Group Picture of the MHRMI and delegates (Photo: MHRMI)



Aleksandar Mitreski, Dr. Kimet Fetahu, Meto Koloski (Photo: MHRMI)



Andy Plukov (MHRMI Treasurer), Father Nikodim Tsarknias, Luby Vidinovski (MHRMI Vice President) (Photo: MHRMI)



Aleksandar Mitreski, Pavle Voskopoulos, Risto Stefov (Canadian-Macedonian author), Meto Koloski (Photo: MHRMI)



Canadian MP Lui Temelkovski and Aleksandar Mitreski (Photo: MHRMI)

UMD Hosts Macedonian Minority Representatives from Bulgaria and Greece in Washington

by Dijana Pajkovski and Blagoj Petkovski



Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (Photo: UMD)



Bulgaria Desk Officer (Photo: UMD)



Senate Foreign Relations Committee Staff (Photo: UMD)



Greece Desk Officer (Photo: UMD)



Congressman Mark Souder (Photo: UMD)

On April 25, 2007, the United Macedonian Diaspora, with the help of the Macedonian Human Rights Movement International and Mr. George Atanasoski, hosted three Macedonian human rights advocates from Bulgaria and Greece in Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings at the U.S. State Department, Congress, and Helsinki Commission. The purpose of these meetings was to raise awareness amongst U.S. public officials on the discrimination policies of the Bulgarian and Greek governments upon their own ethnic Macedonian national minorities whose voices have been neglected, ignored, and silenced in the past.

Accompanying Mr. Stojko Stojkov from Bulgaria, and Pavle Voskopoulos and Archimandrite Nikodim Tsarknias from Greece to these meetings were UMD President Metodija A. Koloski and UMD members Dijana Pajkovski and Blagoj Petkovski.

Topics of discussion included the Bulgarian denial of the OMO Ilinden Pirin petition for political party status in the country of Bulgaria, interrogation of party members by police as well as harassment of the Macedonian minority centering on the commemoration of Macedonian cultural hero Jane Sandanski, religious persecution of Archimandrite Tsarknias by the Greek Orthodox Church and the Greek Government in addition to the discrimination against the ethnic Macedonian national minorities in Greece. It was brought to the attention of these officials that Greece and Bulgaria do not only discriminate against their Macedonian minorities, but also their Roma and Turkish minorities, and Albanian and Vlach in the case of Greece.

That evening, UMD held a panel discussion on "the Status of the Macedonian minorities in the Balkans" in the Intercultural Center at Georgetown University. Turnout was higher than expected and several in the audience expressed sincere interest and concern at the topics being discussed.



Pictures from the panel discussion at Georgetown University (Photo: UMD)

Online Interview with Macedonian Eurovision Contestant Karolina Goceva

by Meto Koloski



SKOPJE, MACEDONIA—After an unsuccessful bid to win the 2002 Eurovision Contest, landing her in 19th place, Karolina Goceva is going at it again, this time more confident than ever. Karolina won the Macedonian Eurosong competition with the song "Mojot Svet," beating out 20 competitors by a wide margin. The song was written by Grigor Koprov and composed by Ognen Nedelkovski. The competition took place at the Universal Hall in Skopje on February 24, 2007. Karolina is the first singer to represent Macedonia twice at Eurovision. She will compete with singers from around Europe in the semi-final in Helsinki, Finland on May 10, 2007.

The Eurovision Song Contest is an annual competition between active member-countries of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). Each participating country submits a song to be performed on live television. Viewers, who cannot vote for the song from their own country, vote via telephone to determine the winner of the competition.

Each country participates through one of their national EBU-member television stations, who are responsible for selecting a singer and a song to represent the country in the international competition.

UMD: Karolina, please accept our congratulations on your victory. How are the preparations and the promotion for your song coming along before you head to Finland? Which countries have you visited so far?

Karolina: Thank you! The preparations are going well and we are quite busy as we have very little time until Eurovision. I think we are making good progress to finish everything on time and as best as we can. With regard to the promotion of the song, I've already been to Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Albania.

UMD: Have you ever thought of visiting the Macedonian community in Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, and Germany to promote your song and motivate these Macedonians and the Macedonians residing in the neighboring Balkan countries to vote for you on May 10 and 12?

Karolina: Of course I have thought of that and I would really like to be able to visit our communities throughout Europe. However, we really don't have time for that because this year's Skopje Festival (when the song that will represent the country is selected) was held much later than usual, leaving us with no time to plan longer and more distant visits. Thus, we opted for trips to the closer, neighboring countries. The moral support from our Diaspora, as well as their votes, is very important to me. We will do our best to stay in touch by email and telephone and to encourage our people throughout Europe to support me by voting for Macedonia and my song on May 10th, and God willing, again on May 12th in the final round. On my side of the bargain, I promise to organize a tour this autumn anywhere throughout Europe where Macedonians live, and in this way try to repay my debt to them.

UMD: The choreography can, but it doesn't have to be the presiding factor for victory at this festival. How much time and energy do you invest in your choreography and on-stage performance?

Karolina: At a big event like Eurovision all of the segments of the performance are important: the choreography, the style, and the wardrobe. We are working on all of them, making sure not to miss any aspect of the performance. We are having daily choreography practices at Macedonian Opera and Ballet building, vocal practices with the supporting singers in the M2 studio of MTV, and the stylists are working hard, as well.

UMD: Last time you wore a special dress and you dedicated a big portion of your preparation time on your looks. Compared with your last performance, when you presented your new song Mojot Svet in Skopje, and also during your visits to a few Balkan cities, your attire was much simpler, but in a good modern style. How do you plan to look and dress at your new performance?

Karolina: Let it be a surprise - I do hope it will be a pleasant one.

UMD: As a singer that has performed at this festival before, what have you learned to use to your advantage at this year's competition? Do you have a different approach towards the stage performance, the pre-festival promotion, and the musical arrangement of the song?

Karolina: The fact that I've performed at this festival before has surely made things easier for me, but it is also helpful that I'm a familiar face among the Eurovision fans. That is my advantage, as well as my new song, which in my opinion is of better quality and is easier for anyone to listen to and sing than my last song in Tallinn, Estonia. We are trying to use our experience from 2002 in the best possible way.



Karolina Goceva

UMD: In these last days of preparation, do you plan to change (and to what extent) the melody of your song Mojot Svet? In what language will you be performing?

Karolina: The only changes we are making are in production. We are doing a live recording with all the instruments and we've also worked on mastering. However, we believe the song is great as it is and that we don't need to change much, if at all. I will be performing in Macedonian.

UMD: Have you heard the other songs that will be performed in Helsinki? Which one would you consider as competition for your song?

Karolina: Although I've heard most of the songs, I'd rather not bother about which song could be serious competition to mine. What I try to do and spend my time on is concentrate on my work in order to perform better and represent our country Macedonia in Helsinki in the best possible way.

UMD: Besides your two songs, what is your favorite song that has ever been performed at this festival?

Karolina: ABBA's Waterloo and Sertab Erener's song.

UMD: How do you intend to celebrate your victory?

Karolina: Wildly.

UMD: Good Luck Karolina on May 10th!

UMD Hosts Macedonian Defense Minister in New York City

by Alexander Krstevski



Minister Elenovski (Photo: A. Krstevski)

NEW YORK CITY—Macedonian Minister of Defense Lazar Elenovski was honored by members of the diaspora at a reception hosted by United Macedonian Diaspora ("UMD") on January 30th 2007. Minister Elenovski, who was in the country meeting with U.S. government officials about Macedonia's progress towards NATO, thanked UMD for promoting Macedonia's efforts through the *Macedonia in NATO '08* campaign. He expressed his satisfaction with his country's progress, saying "NATO membership will be the second major historical event of Macedonia, second to independence," and called upon to the diaspora to continue mobilizing in support of their homeland.

UMD President Metodija A. Koloski and UMD Vice President Aleksandar Mitreski introduced Minister Elenovski to the audience of around 40 reporters and diaspora members. Metodija A. Koloski spoke briefly about the continued efforts of UMD to address the interests and efforts of Macedonians in the United States, highlighting the *Macedonia in NATO '08* project. He affirmed that "United Macedonian Diaspora is working hard to educate the American

public and policymakers of the progress being made by Macedonia and their efforts to secure democratic reforms and to be a role model for the rest of the Balkans."



Young Macedonian professionals of NYC listening to Minister Elenovski's speech (Photo: A. Krstevski)



Slavko Madzarov giving a Congressional Letter to Minister Elenovski (Photo: A. Krstevski)

Following the introduction, Slavko Madzarov, a businessman and member of New Jersey's Macedonian community, took the floor and announced that the Minister had been presented with a Congressional Letter of Recognition by New Jersey Representative William Pascrell the previous evening. The document, which Mr. Koloski read aloud, recognizes Minister Elenovski's work, dedication, and contributions towards Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. Minister Elenovski was then presented with a Citation of Recognition on behalf of the New Jersey State Legislature by prominent New Jersey businessman and friend of the Macedonian community Ray Ferraioli. The document was signed by representatives of New Jersey's 36th district including Assemblymen Frederick Scalera, Gary Schaer, and Senator Paul Sarlo.

Later that week, United Macedonian Diaspora met with Minister Elenovski and his staff for a working-dinner to discuss reforms that Macedonia is undertaking in order to meet NATO requirements. The dinner was attended by UMD President and Treasurer Metodija A. Koloski and Denis Manevski, the Minister and several of his staff. Discussion centered on how Macedonian-Americans can assist in educating the American public about Macedonia.

ACT NOW!

INFORM CONGRESS ON H. Res. 356

READ. ACT. EDUCATE.

House Resolution 356 is inaccurate and inappropriate. Act Quickly: call/fax/e-mail/visit your representative. Educate your representative on this issue - if they only hear from the other side, then that is what they will only know.

BACKGROUND

On May 1, 2007, the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues co-chaired by Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) and Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) introduced a similar resolution like the one back in October 2005, H. Res. 521, calling upon Macedonia to "stop the utilization of materials that violate provisions of the United Nations-brokered Interim Agreement between the FYROM and Greece regarding 'hostile activities or propaganda' and 'work with the United Nations and Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of finding a mutually-acceptable official name for the FYROM.'"

H. Res. 356, which was co-sponsored on the same day by Chairman of the Europe Subcommittee, Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL) and Ranking Member of the Europe Subcommittee, Congressman Elton Gallegly (R-CA), was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ACTION REQUESTED -- CALL, FAX, E-MAIL or VISIT:

Please review the Rebuttal to H. Res. 356 and the Talking Points sections of this Action Alert on our website www.umdiaspora.org before contacting your Representative so you can better inform them of the factual inaccuracies and negative effects of H. Res. 356. Instructions on contacting your Representative are also set forth below.

How to Contact Your Representative:

To Contact your U.S. Representative by mail:

Write to:

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

To Contact your U.S. Representative by phone:

Dial 202-224-3121 (general number) and ask the operator to connect to your Congressman's office.

To Contact your U.S. Representative by fax:

Visit <http://www.house.gov/Welcome.html>

Enter your zip code

Click on the link to your representative's web site

Locate the "Contact" or "Constituent Services" button on your representative's Web site to find the fax number for your representative's office.

To Contact your U.S. Representative Via E-mail:

Visit <http://www.house.gov/writerep>

Enter your state and zip code

Fill out the electronic form of your name and address

Write and submit your message

The United Macedonian Diaspora calls on all Macedonian-Americans to inform and educate every member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and their own Representative in Congress about the inaccuracies of H. Res. 356.

SAVE Macedonia's Archaeological Finds

by Risto Stefov and Tom Vangelovski

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The United Macedonian Diaspora ("UMD") calls on the Macedonian Government to take appropriate measures to end the illegal excavation, exportation, and sale of Macedonia's ancient treasures and cultural heritage. Archeology is a key, validating component of national history.

In recent years, the Republic of Macedonia has seen an alarming rise in the illegal extraction and export of archaeological artifacts of significance from many of its cultural and historical sites. Many of these artifacts have found their way into the hands of foreign buyers, particularly Greek collectors. The Macedonian Government has an obligation to take all necessary measures to safeguard our archaeological heritage and discourage the illegal sale of priceless national treasures.

Firm, enforceable laws may prevent foreigners and locals from illegally excavating and selling Macedonian artifacts, while fair compensation for those who do find artifacts should be provided so that they are encouraged to surrender artifacts to the proper institutions.

As a long term initiative, Macedonia should provide increased funding for archeological projects, museums, and protection of historical sites in order to preserve its ancient heritage, which may then be used to increase awareness of Macedonian history and further develop Macedonia's tourism industry.

Archeological finds are key to Macedonia's history and help define Macedonian cultural identity. The latter is of utmost importance, given the enormous amount of misinformation and chauvinistic propaganda directed against Macedonians in the region and worldwide.

UMD Members Promote Macedonian Culture and Heritage to Washingtonians *by Marina veljanovska*

Promoting our culture is a way of making a statement about our national identity. This spring, UMD members enthusiastically represented Macedonia at several cultural events in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.



Scenes from the Macedonia Table at Georgetown University's International Culture Day (Photo: A. Bundalevska)



Scenes from the Macedonia Table at Georgetown University's International Culture Day (Photo: A. Bundalevska)

Military personnel and their families at the Fort Myer Military Base in Arlington, Virginia were able to taste delicious traditional cuisine, see century old historic artifacts, colorful Macedonian textile and costumes, and be entertained by Macedonian folk music. UMD volunteers alongside embassy staff were available to answer various questions about Macedonian history, geography, and tourism to the many interested visitors at this multicultural event.

Macedonian century old crafts, wood-carved pieces, modern art, traditional textile and rugs graced the hallways of Georgetown University. Visitors were especially interested in the traditional folk costume, nosija, from the village of Galicnik that UMD Secretary Marina Veljanovska proudly wore at this international art show.

Thousands of visitors showed up at the First Annual Slavic Spring Festival in Washington D.C. to enjoy traditional Slavic cuisine, dance and folk music. UMD volunteers were especially eager to "show off" Macedonia's treasures



UMD Secretary Martina Veljanovska decked in folklore costume (A. Bundalevska)

to all the guests, many of whom have never heard about Macedonia before.

There were ambassadors and prominent politicians from all corners of the Slavic world to represent their unique national perspective and historical heritage. The Macedonian Ambassador's speech and remarks were well received by the audience.

The Macedonian community came together to support the efforts of the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia and the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD). "The Macedonian representation at the Slavic Spring Festival today was fantastic," said Metodija A. Koloski, president of UMD. With only three tables packed with artifacts, books, brochures, and various other items, UMD brought awareness to Washingtonians of the rich culture and heritage Macedonia holds. Hundreds of people passed by and inquired on all aspects of Macedonian culture, tourism, and economy.

UMD extends a special thanks to all volunteers who helped out during the event, especially Dijana Pajkovski, Aleksandra Trpkovska, Blaze Dimov, Jasminka Naneva-Dombrovski, Hristijan Gjorgievski, Slajgana Markovski, and to Konstanca Mandic who prepared traditional Macedonian dishes.

The United Macedonian Diaspora hopes to bring awareness in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area of the rich Macedonian national heritage and culture.

We plan to work with other Macedonian organizations in accomplishing our goal to promote the Macedonian national cultural heritage throughout the world.

We encourage Macedonian artists, linguists, ethnographers, historians, and musicians to contact us at info@umdiaspora.org to discuss future possible collaborative projects.



Scenes from the Macedonian Table at George Washington University's Slavic Spring Festival (Photo: A. Bundalevska)



UMD Member Dijana Pajkovski pointing out to people "Don't You FYROM Me!" (Photo: A. Bundalevska)



Baby Teo Dombrovski holding on the Macedonian flag (Photo: A. Bundalevska)



Scenes from the Macedonian Table at George Washington University's Slavic Spring Festival (Photo: A. Bundalevska)



Three young girls admiring Macedonian artifacts and the newspaper Makedonski Glas (Photo: A. Bundalevska)

Internship Program - Gain Experience in Washington, D.C.

The Embassy of Macedonia is announcing its 1st Call for Applications for three internship positions in cooperation with the United Macedonian Diaspora.

Description

The program is designed to provide students with an opportunity for involvement in governmental affairs, and to provide a general understanding of the Macedonia-U.S. bilateral relationship through the dynamics at work in the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia. Interns will have the opportunity to work closely with high-level Macedonian and foreign diplomats, and will gain first-hand exposure to the Embassy's dealings with other Embassies, the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of State, and other U.S. governmental agencies.

Eligibility

Students of Macedonian descent, already living in the United States with a legally regulated status, as well as other US students are eligible for the program. We encourage qualified undergraduates (junior or higher) to apply, as well as graduate students and those in between degrees.

Duration

The Embassy offers both part-time and full-time internships. For the part-time internships, a commitment of at least four to six months is required, while full-time internships are offered for fall and spring semester and during the summer. Three internships are available each period.

Responsibilities

- * Researching on political, economic, and social issues
- * Attending Capitol Hill functions, seminars, public hearings and briefings as well as events dealing on Macedonia and Southeast Europe throughout Washington
- * Promoting Macedonian culture through various events in and around Washington
- * Assisting in the planning and execution of cultural and diplomatic events organized by the Embassy
- * Redesigning Embassy's webpage structure and updating website contents
- * Coordinating with U.S. governmental agencies to accommodate visiting delegates from Macedonia
- * Creating a database of U.S. Congressional members, their committee memberships, records and contacts
- * Assisting the Embassy's staff with daily clerical and administrative assignments

Requirements

Prospective interns should be motivated individuals with a record of high academic performance and dedication to the promotion of the Macedonian culture worldwide. They should also possess good work ethic, excellent communication skills, and bearing suitable for interacting with high-ranking government officials. Candidates must be professional, dependable, and trustworthy. Excellent writing skills in English are necessary. Proficiency in Macedonian is desirable and helpful, although not a requisite.

Compensation

Internships are unpaid. We encourage applicants to seek compensation in the form of course credit through their respective institutions.

The Embassy and UMD are not responsible for the relocation cost of the candidates. Interns are expected to find and cover the cost of their own room and board while interning at the Embassy.

How to apply

Please send your application*, resume, cover letter, a short writing sample (no longer than 1,500 words) and references to:

Igor Dukovski
Embassy of Macedonia
usoffice@macedonianembassy.org

Marina Veljanovska
UMD-Embassy Internship Coordinator
mveljanovska@umdiaspora.org

Deadlines

Fall Semester: July 1
Spring Semester: Nov. 1
Summer: April 1

Candidates must submit all documents no later than two months before the start of the internship. All candidates will be screened and their background checked.

JOIN UMD TODAY!
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR MACEDONIA!



**UNITED
MACEDONIAN
DIASPORA**
ОБЕДИНЕТА МАКЕДОНСКА ДИЈАСПОРА

United Macedonian Diaspora ("UMD") is an international organization addressing the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities throughout the world.

Your membership helps foster the unity of the Macedonian people by ensuring the progress and advancement of the traditional Macedonian spiritual, historical, and socio-cultural heritage furthered by charitable, educational, public, and other community-minded endeavors. It is only through your support that UMD can remain effective. We sincerely thank you for your generosity.

Help move the Macedonian cause forward by joining TODAY!
United, We Can!

Membership tiers in US Dollars per year (please check one):

- ☐ Student \$15 (please include a copy of your student ID)
- ☐ Individual \$35 ☐ Family \$75 ☐ Business, Church, or Organization \$100
- ☐ Sponsor \$500 ☐ Patron \$1,000 ☐ Benefactor \$5,000

Please fill out the form below:

First Name		Last Name	
Title		Business, Church, or Organization	
Address			
City	State/Province	Zip Code	Country
E-mail	Phone	Fax	

You can also visit our website at www.umdiaspora.org to become a member by donating via our secure online payment system, or mail, or mail this completed form with check or money order made payable to 'United Macedonian Diaspora' to:

United Macedonian Diaspora
P.O. Box 19028
Washington, D.C. 20036

Please direct all questions to:
info@umdiaspora.org
or (202) 294-3400



UNITED MACEDONIAN DIASPORA ОБЕДИНЕТА МАКЕДОНСКА ДИЈАСПОРА

The United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) is in the final stages of realizing a project named *Macedonian Investment Network*, which aims to increase economic development in the Republic of Macedonia by bringing the Macedonian Diaspora closer to Macedonia, by investing in Macedonia. UMD will launch this new website in the coming weeks.

**Make a Difference for the Future
of Macedonia and Macedonians!**

DONATE TODAY!

Stay tuned on upcoming events
and projects by visiting:



www.umdiaspora.org

The UMD's goal is to invest heavily in our Diaspora's human resources, educating our communities and inspiring our youth to remain committed to their heritage, meet their civic responsibilities, and explore careers in public policy, government, and media. UMD is working on a project to produce a full interactive section of our site for Students and Young Macedonians.

We look forward to receiving your reaction to this newsletter, as well as any topics you would like us to address in future issues.

If you know of someone who should receive this newsletter, please send his or her name, e-mail address or street address and we will gladly add them to our distribution list.

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