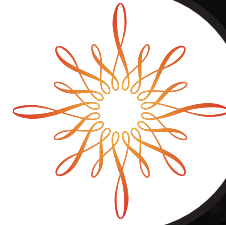
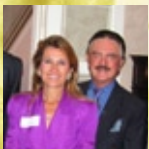


# UMD Voice



## Step Inside Katrina Markoff's World of Chocolate



*First Macedonian  
Ambassador  
to the U.S.*

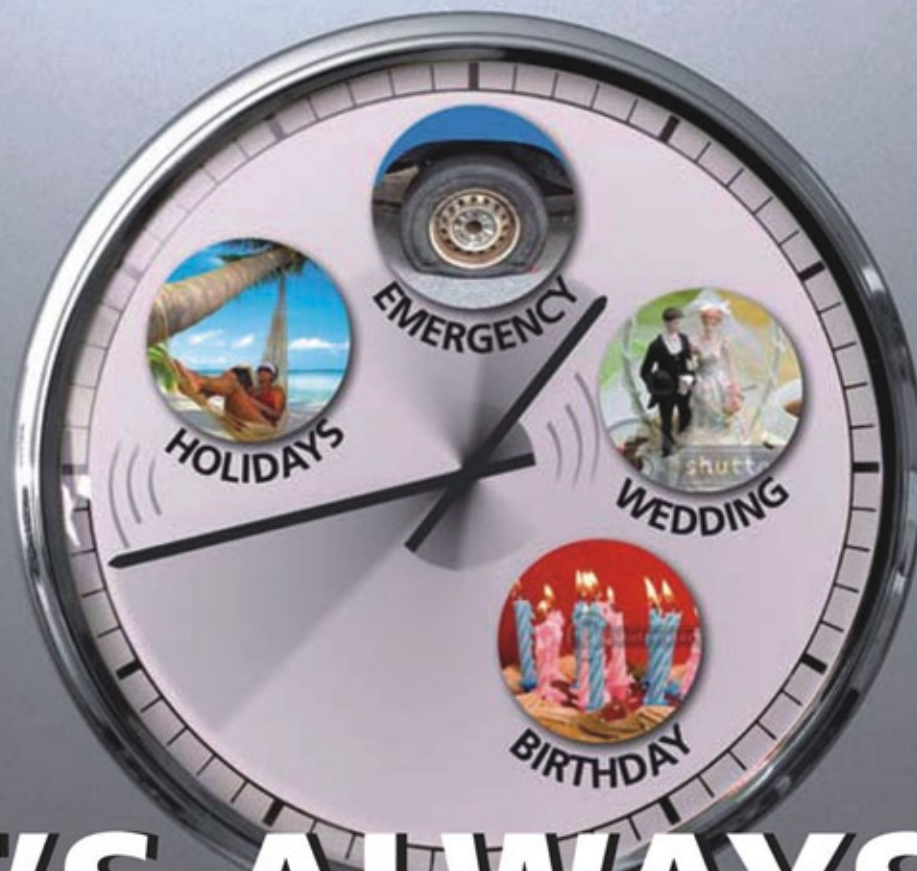


*The Macedonian  
Independence Day  
Boat Cruise*



*Prime Minister  
Gruevski Visits  
New Jersey*





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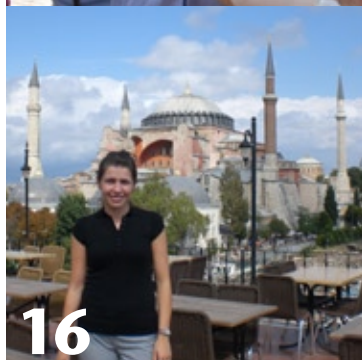
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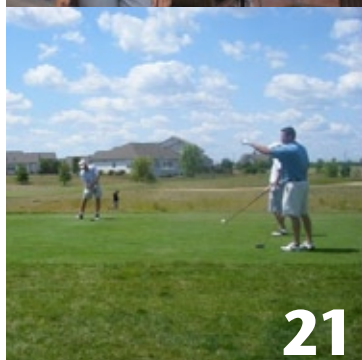
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UNITED  
MACEDONIAN  
DIASPORA

ОБЕДИНЕТА МАКЕДОНСКА ДИЈАСПОРА

Founded in 2004, United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) is an international non-governmental organization addressing the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities throughout the world.

With headquarters in Washington, D.C., UMD has representatives serving Macedonian communities around the world, including Berlin, Brussels, Canberra, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, New York, Paris, Stuttgart, Sydney, Toronto, and Vienna.

UMD is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

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## Letter from the President



Dear Reader,

We are excited to welcome you to the second issue of *UMD Voice*. As you can see from this issue, the past few months were quite busy for UMD. The positive feedback from you about our first issue indicates that UMD Voice is poised to become the premiere magazine of the Macedonian Diaspora.

This was a year with many significant events for Macedonia. In April 2008, Greece vetoed Macedonia's NATO entry—despite the fact that Macedonia had met all membership requirements. The steps taken at and since the Bucharest Summit clearly demonstrate Greece's intention to bar Macedonia from the Euro-Atlantic family. At the same time, however, Greece's actions are uniting Macedonians around the world in ways never before possible. UMD encourages such unity, and will work together with you to ensure advancement of the Macedonian cause.

2008 marked the 60th anniversary of the mass exodus of Macedonian children refugees from Greece (Aegean Macedonia) during the Greek Civil War. The reality of this event was imprinted on me recently after speaking with one of these child refugees in Toronto. He recounted how at age nine, he carried his sister on his shoulders through the cold winter mountains to escape the Greek army. His story should inspire us and underscore UMD's message that **we must never give up**. We must constantly educate the international community about the challenges Macedonians have faced in the past and continue to face in the 21st century.

Throughout 2008, Macedonian heritage and film festivals were held in Toronto, London, and New York. UMD applauds these efforts, and as a staunch advocate for Macedonia's cultural promotion, regards culture as one of the best reflections of the soul and spirit of a nation. Such festivals do much to educate the world about us as a people.

Last month, Macedonia commenced proceedings against Greece in the International Court of Justice for violating the Interim Accord amongst Macedonia and Greece, which bars Greece from vetoing Macedonia's NATO and EU accession based on Greece's objection to Macedonia's name.

While reflecting on 2008, I began thinking about what 2009 may bring for us. Economically, Macedonia is facing serious obstacles. Despite increases in direct foreign investment in 2008, more work is needed to improve Macedonia's economy. Macedonia must speed up its judicial reforms to meet European standards. Only through a fair, free and independent judicial system will foreign investors feel secure.

In March 2009, Macedonia will hold presidential and local elections. It is of the utmost importance that Macedonia hold fair elections—free of even the limited problems experienced during the 2008 elections. Macedonia has always been a role model for Southeast Europe, and we are certain it will continue to do so.

An extremely important event will take place in June 2009. I am delighted to announce that UMD will hold its first ever **Global Conference** in Washington, D.C on **June 11, 12 and 13**. The aim is to connect Macedonians throughout the world for advocacy, cultural, and business opportunities in one of the world's most influential cities. Our planning committee has been meeting every other week putting together a great program of events. We will launch a conference website very soon with more information. You can stay up to date by visiting [www.umdiaspora.org](http://www.umdiaspora.org). In the meantime, save the date, as we want you to participate in launching a great new Macedonian tradition.

This holiday season we ask that you reflect on the year in passing and remember our brothers and sisters around the world. Macedonians must care for one another and work together to strengthen our homeland. **Only when united can we prevail!**

On behalf of the UMD Board of Directors, membership, and our volunteers, I wish you and your family a joyous Christmas and New Year. We hope you enjoy this issue of UMD Voice.

Sincerely yours,

Metodija A. Koloski  
President  
United Macedonian Diaspora

## UMD Congratulates President-elect Obama

*On November 7, 2008, the United Macedonian Diaspora sent the following letter of congratulations to Barack Obama after his election to become the 44th president of the United States.*

*The full text of the letter from UMD follows:*

Dear President-elect Obama:

On behalf of all Macedonian-Americans, the United Macedonian Diaspora extends to you our warmest congratulations on your historic victory. UMD and the Macedonian-American community look forward to working with you and your Administration to improve the strong bond between the United States and Macedonia.

Your inspiring election opens a new chapter in our history at a time when the world is eager for new American leadership. We understand that the choices you will face in putting together your Administration and formulating your agenda will be difficult ones.

Understanding the many formidable issues awaiting you, we would like to briefly touch on the strategic relationship between the United States and an important ally, Macedonia – an essential force for peace and stability in Southeast Europe, a region still suffering from the aftermaths of wars and socio-economic instability.

Macedonia is a small but important nation in Southeast Europe, and perhaps one of our most dedicated allies in the War on Terror. It is an exporter of peace and a model for stability in the turbulent Balkans. Macedonia participates in our missions



in Afghanistan and Iraq, has met all of its NATO membership accession criteria, and remains the logistical center for NATO's mission in Kosovo.

Although small by population and territory, Macedonia and its people have proven capable of being a partner to the United States and NATO. During the NATO intervention in Kosovo in 1999, Macedonia welcomed over 360,000 Kosovar refugees. Currently, Macedonia's government continues to build a stable multi-ethnic democratic nation while pursuing Macedonia's membership in both NATO and the European Union.

American leadership in Southeast Europe is imperative. Programs such as USAID and SEED are essential in aiding the process of building and nurturing democratic institutions in the region. We anticipate that the United States will continue supporting Macedonia in its Euro-Atlantic integration and will continue to recognize Macedonia's one and only constitutional name, the Republic of Macedonia, during your Presidency.

The United Macedonian Diaspora once again congratulates you on your victory. We look forward to a new era of friendship between the United States and Macedonia. We pledge our full support to advancing this relationship to benefit the United States and Macedonia, and, indeed, peace and security in the world.

Sincerely,

United Macedonian Diaspora

## UMD and Splash of Hope Partner to Help Macedonian Children

*By Aleksandra Trpkovska*

In June, UMD partnered with Splash of Hope to form The Fund for Macedonian Children, a new charitable program for Macedonian Children.

The Fund's goal is to invest in the creation of humanitarian programs designed to benefit the youth of Macedonia and thereby forge a better future for the entire Balkan region.

The first project of the Fund is the Building a Future, Today Project. The Macedonian Mission for Humanity (MMH) will join UMD and Splash of Hope in the execution of the Building a Future, Today Project, which will foster the positive development of Macedonia's primary school students. Partnerships with local Macedonian NGOs will be sought out in order to deliver on other projects by The Fund for Macedonian Children. Letters of interest and proposals for projects by local Macedonian NGOs

can be sent to [charity@umdiaspora.org](mailto:charity@umdiaspora.org).

Splash of Hope is a non-profit organization, founded by Macedonian-American actor Kristopher Maslardzievski, dedicated to improving the lives of children. MMH is a Colorado based NGO, founded by Macedonian-American Vesna Palmer, that provides humanitarian assistance and support to Macedonians around the world.

As in past years, this holiday season, UMD will also undertake a drive to collect funds in support of orphanages and less fortunate children in Macedonia.

For more information or to contribute in support of Macedonian children, please contact UMD Headquarters at (202) 756-2244 or send an e-mail to [charity@umdiaspora.org](mailto:charity@umdiaspora.org). ✨

# UMD Co-Sponsors International Conference on U.S.-Central and East European Relations

By Andrej Josifov

*Helps generate concrete policy recommendations for incoming U.S. administration*

On October 2, 2008, UMD was a core sponsor, along with the Hungarian American Coalition and the American Polish Forum, of an international conference entitled, New Allies and the New U.S. Administration: Priorities for U.S.-CEE Relations, hosted by the renowned Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. The conference was co-hosted by the Foundation for Democracy, Culture and Liberty in Romania. The upcoming U.S. presidential elections made this a most timely event. Conference participants expressed their opinions on the strategic relationship between the United States and the Central and East European States (CEE) and generated concrete policy recommendations for the incoming U.S. administration. Twenty-two million Americans descend from Central and Eastern Europe. The conference featured keynote remarks from the Senior Foreign Policy Advisors to both presidential candidates, Senator John McCain and Senator Barack Obama, Dr. Kori Schake for the McCain Campaign and Philip H. Gordon for the Obama Campaign.

This conference was of great importance to Macedonian-Americans and Macedonia. It was an excellent occasion to educate an audience of over 100 attendees, especially representatives from the two U.S. presidential campaigns, Central and Eastern European Diaspora leaders, regional experts, analysts, business representatives, scholars, and the media about issues important to Macedonian-Americans. With UMD's participation and core

sponsorship of the conference, UMD is fulfilling one of its central missions of furthering U.S.-Macedonian relations and fostering peace, democracy, human rights, and stability in Southeast Europe.

Following the keynote remarks from Dr. Kori Schake, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator John McCain, and Philip H. Gordon, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator Barack Obama, CEE diaspora leaders had the opportunity to ask questions of them. UMD President Metodija A. Koloski inquired from Dr. Schake what Senator McCain's policy towards Macedonia and its NATO membership would be if elected. Dr. Schake stated that Senator McCain is in favor of Macedonia's NATO membership based on U.S. interests in the region and noted that it was unfortunate that Greece blocked Macedonia's NATO entry.

Koloski made the same inquiry to Philip H. Gordon, Senator Obama's advisor, and noted that Macedonian-Americans were disappointed and gravely concerned by Senator Obama's co-sponsorship of Senate Resolution 300, an anti-Macedonian resolution that essentially recites Greece's position in the "name dispute" and uses the meaningless acronym "FYROM" in referring to Macedonia. Gordon stated that Senator Obama does in fact support Macedonia's NATO admission but added that a mutually acceptable name should be found.

Following the remarks of the campaign representatives, Koloski participated as a panelist for a discussion on Economic and Public Diplomacy Priorities. During his remarks as a panelist, Koloski provided a summary of Macedonia's recent history, describing its remarkable transition to a modern,

independent, democratic nation that has effected substantial economic, judicial and security reforms. Koloski also addressed Macedonia's important role in regional security, peace and in regional energy issues. He urged the next administration to adopt and implement policies that further these efforts to secure peace, progress and stability in the region. Koloski's comments included an explanation of Macedonia's NATO membership bid and Greece's reprehensible veto based on its unilateral objection to Macedonia's name.

During the panel discussion representatives of the Greek Embassy attending the conference made the dubious claim that all NATO members supported Greece's veto of Macedonia's NATO membership. They even claimed incredibly that President Bush himself supported the Greek veto. During a lively exchange with the Greek representative, Koloski corrected the Greek envoy's claims and made it clear that Greece alone bore sole responsibility for its veto of Macedonia's bid for NATO membership. This exchange demonstrated to the attendees firsthand the ways in which Greece seeks to influence public opinion in this "name dispute," and Macedonia's uphill battle to resolve the "dispute" in face of this kind of intransigence. Another interesting exchange occurred when representatives of the Greek Embassy claimed that it is the Macedonian government that spreads nationalism in the Balkans by raising issues about a non-existent Macedonian minority in Greece. Koloski responded that the Government of Macedonia does not have to tell him anything about that sad story because members of his own family were subject to Greek discrimination and were forced to flee Greece.



Photos courtesy of: CSIS

The conference consisted of two panels; one on security priorities and one on economic and public diplomacy priorities were organized. Speakers included: Janusz Bugajski, Director, New European Democracies Project, CSIS; Dragos Seuleanu, Foundation for Democracy, Liberty, and Culture, Romania; Jeffrey Simon, National Defense University; Stephen Blank, U.S. Army War College; Vladimir Socor, Jamestown Foundation; Anita Orban, Constellation Energy Institute, Hungary; Ronald Slimp, TD International, and Christopher Medalis, Institute of International Education. UMD President Metodija A. Koloski, as well as Maximilian Teleki of the Hungarian American Coalition and Artur Orkisz of the

American Polish Forum served as panelists as well.

The conference was a great success and provided an outstanding forum for all those who attended and participated. General sponsors of the conference included, the American Friends of the Czech Republic, Friends of Slovakia, the Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc., Georgian Association in the United States, Lithuanian American Community, American Hungarian Federation, National Albanian American Council, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Bosniak American Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

Many of these organizations demonstrated support to UMD after the conference successfully concluded.

UMD hopes to sponsor and participate in similar events in the future. These events provide a great opportunity to present Macedonia's issues to NGOs, policymakers, diplomats, educators, and academics and allow a direct, frank and open communications and discussions enhances their respective understanding of issues and policies. UMD's sponsorship and participation in such events is one of the best means available to it to further Macedonian issues and to educate others on such matters. ☀



*Panelists discussing U.S.-CEE Relations at CSIS*



# First Macedonian Ambassador to U.S. Hosts UMD Reception

By Boban Jovanovski



Left to right: Annette Mazeveski, Boban Jovanovski, Denis Manevski, Ambassador Acevska, Dr. Novello, Aleksandra Trpkovska and Metodija A. Koloski

On October 8, 2008, Macedonia's first Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Ljubica Acevska and her husband, Dr. Joseph Novello, hosted around fifty individuals for a reception in support of UMD. In her remarks, Ambassador Acevska welcomed UMD's Board Directors, members and supporters and praised them for their dedicated volunteerism in support of the Macedonian cause. She commended UMD for advancing the interests of Macedonians throughout the world and UMD's work to deepen U.S.-Macedonian relations.

UMD President Metodija A. Koloski praised Ambassador Acevska for the work she did in starting and solidifying U.S., IMF, World Bank, and United Nations relations with Macedonia. "Her role in the first years of Macedonia's independence was crucial for the Republic of Macedonia," noted Koloski, adding, "Ambassador Acevska will always remain dear to UMD and the hearts of millions of Macedonians throughout the world."

Following Koloski's remarks, Guler Koknar, the Vice President of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) briefly discussed Turkey-Macedonia relations and the reasons TCA approved a challenge-matching grant totaling \$150,000 over the course of the next year. She expressed gratitude for the friendship between Turks and Macedonians and hopes that with this grant, the relations amongst Turkish-Americans and Macedonian-Americans will only strengthen.

Guests included former Macedonian Ambassador to Albania and advisor to Presidents Gligorov and Trajkovski, Eleonora Karanfilovska Ratcliff and her husband Craig; President of

the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, Gunay Evinch; Executive Director of the Bosniak American Advisory Council for Bosnia & Herzegovina, Elmina Kulasic; Jeanne Whitney Smith, President of Friends of Macedonia; Robert Netkovski, Founder and Managing Director of Babylon Software Solution; Stephanie and Vladimir Atseff, and UMD Board Members Boban Jovanovski and Denis Manevski.

Guests enjoyed wonderful Macedonian winecourtesyofMacedonian-American Slavco Madzarov, and Macedonian and American delicacies courtesy of Ambassador Acevska and Dr. Novello. UMD is organizing similar receptions throughout North America in the coming months as they serve as a great networking opportunity, especially for Macedonian students and young professionals, while also providing UMD valuable exposure to policymakers, potential investors, and the interested public. If you would like to host such a UMD Reception in your community, please contact UMD's Headquarters. ✨



Atseff family with Megi Kusemileva and Rajna Nikolovska-Angelovska



Photos courtesy of: Katrina Markoff

Everyone loves chocolate, especially Katrina Markoff, an American of Macedonian descent who grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A graduate from Vanderbilt University and Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, Katrina is the owner and creative force behind Vosges Haut-Chocolat. Prior to starting Vosges Haut-Chocolate, Katrina worked in France, Spain, Italy, Southeast Asia and Australia. Vosges Haut-Chocolate was a tiny start up 10 years ago, however, today it is a well-known high-end chocolate company with boutiques in New York City, Chicago, and Las Vegas. Vosges Haut-Chocolate is sold in places like New York City, San Francisco and Honolulu by Neiman Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman and by Zingermans in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



roots and herbs with chocolate seems to be my calling.

**UMD: How exactly do you plan to “bring peace to the world through chocolate?” Can you elaborate on your mission statement please?**

*Katrina:* There are so many levels to this grand statement. Purchasing, opening minds through story and taste and reforesting rainforests.

The corporate culture of Vosges Haut-Chocolat continues to be a house of innovation. We are constantly striving to balance the mind, efficiency and spirit within the workplace. Visit the yoga room in our Chicago headquarters and join a lunchtime class and you will understand what makes this company not your average box

## Interview with High-End Chocolatier Katrina Markoff

By Metodija A. Koloski

*Katrina has received numerous accolades such as Entrepreneur Magazine and OPEN American Express Woman of the Year 2008, Bon Appetit Magazine’s Food Artisan of the Year 2004, Food & Wine Top 35 Culinary Artists 2004, Inc Magazine 500 list Fastest Growing Companies in the US 2004, 2005, 2006, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist 2004, Crain’s Business 40 under 40 2002, and Inc Magazine 26 Most Fascinating Entrepreneurs 2005.*

*UMD is proud to bring you this special interview with Katrina. For more information or to buy her exotic and delicious chocolates, please visit: <http://www.vosgeschocolate.com>*

**UMD: How was it that you came up with the idea of “exotic truffles?”**

*Katrina:* Three days following graduation from Vanderbilt University, I boarded a plane to Paris to pursue my dream of studying the culinary arts at Le Cordon Bleu. Using my palate as my guide, I embarked upon a world tour that commenced with an apprenticeship in Spain under the direction of Ferrán Adriá and

continued eastbound throughout Southeast Asia and Australia. The idea of exotic truffles and the concept of Travel the World through Chocolate was inspired by my journeys and desire to create a luxury chocolate experience. The idea of merging taste and an awareness of the world’s cultures by fusing storytelling, a gamut of indigenous spices, flowers,



of chocolates. In tune with my green mission, Vosges utilizes 100% recycled materials for their packaging, powers their facility with 100% renewable energy and recently achieved organic certification. Our latest undertaking is the construction of a certified LEED sustainable chocolate manufacturing facility and lifestyle center. Setting an example teaches other companies how easy it is to turn green.

Our mission remains to create a sustainable luxury chocolate experience rooted in a sensory journey of bringing about awareness of indigenous cultures through the exploration of spices, herbs, roots, flowers, fruits, nuts, chocolate and the obscure. Vosges invites you to be aware and open to the many cultures, artists and theories of the world’s people, through the medium of chocolate. “What better way to learn about a culture, person or object than through eating? If we can embrace the idea of trying something new such as the perplexing oddity of curry and chocolate, we start to open the minds of people. When you open minds we just may come one step closer to bringing peace to the world through chocolate.”

One Love, One Chocolate.

I am trying to raise funds to acquire rain forest cocoa growing land along the equatorial growing areas. Both, land that has already been developed and deforested or existing rain forest land. I want to take the land back for agricultural, educational and environmental purposes. If we can preserve the land from deforestation, industry and/or development we can save the environment. The idea is three fold: 1. to harvest the land for cacao while supporting ecosystems. 2. to create exchange programs for agricultural schools around the world to learn more about cacao both medically and agriculturally. 3. build a small footprint eco-resort that celebrates the local cultures cuisine, cooking techniques and life. The cacao farms would support local economy giving farmers leases on the land to organically grow, harvest and sell the beans. The resort would help fund costs of operating land and build awareness.

**UMD: Of the numerous cultures you experienced through your travels around the world to sample various ethnic cuisines, which cuisine and/or culture were you most fascinated by?**

*Katrina:* That is an almost impossible question to answer since I see so much beauty in every place I have been. Most recently, I was in Japan and found myself fascinated with their indigenous ingredients and traditions. I experienced a Japanese matcha tea ceremony with wagashi (sweet bean paste, a traditional Japanese confection). Visited a traditional market and bought a

bonito fish that looked liked petrified wood! Customs had no idea what I was bringing back with me. I always like to stay in a traditional hotel and I found an incredible hotel experience at the Gora Kadan ([www.gorakadan.com](http://www.gorakadan.com)) ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn located an hour outside of Tokyo situated in the mountains by a natural spring. When you arrive in your room, a cedar-wood bathtub has already been filled with the local spring water and the water is literally overflowing onto the rocks surrounding the tub. You start your stay with a private bath and before you go to sleep you can request someone to come to your room for a shiatsu massage. Though the most memorable experience was the twenty-two course kaiseki meal, whose miniature courses illuminated Japan's rare ingredients. It's a truly special place.

As for eating in Tokyo, I wholeheartedly recommend Aronia de Takazawa ([www.aroniadetakazawa.com](http://www.aroniadetakazawa.com)), a restaurant in the Akasaka district. Up-and-coming chef Yoshiaki Takazawa cooks for only for about ten diners every night, so reservations are essential. He sources every ingredient personally and his modern Japanese cuisine is extremely innovative. It's not as over-the-top as Ferran Adrià, but it certainly is a sensory-oriented dining experience with a multitude of creative small plates. Have you ever tried yam charcoal?

**UMD: As a native of Indiana with Macedonian roots, are there any Macedonian ingredients in your vast line of chocolates?**

*Katrina:* Not yet, I need help finding distributors of Macedonian products in the US.

**UMD: What advice would you give to young Macedonians around the world?**

*Katrina:* Fear not. Fear only limits potential. In my opinion, you must be 95% dreamer with 5% pure ambition.

**UMD: Have you been to Macedonia, and if not, do you have plans to visit in the near future?**

*Katrina:* I was so close last year, I was in Croatia but my plans changed and I had to leave earlier than expected. I hope to go this summer with my mom.

**UMD: What is your favorite Macedonian dessert?**

*Katrina:* Home made yogurt and honey, bulgur wheat and honey or baklava followed by a small glass of Apricot Rakija from a wooden flask

**UMD: At the end of a long week, how do you unwind? Do you have a favorite comfort food?**

*Katrina:* I ride my horse. Being with horses and nature is the ultimate way to get my mind off of work.

**UMD: We noticed that Vosges Haut-Chocolat is very environmentally conscious. Can you explain the steps your business has taken, and why it is so important to go green?**





*Katrina:* I buy almost exclusively organic food, I drive a hybrid and I use very little energy in my home. When I looked at what I was doing with my business, I felt like a hypocrite. So about 3 years ago, I decided to change our practices and this is our green purchasing oath.

We promise so help us...

We purchase ingredients having luxurious taste and sustainable merit like our Rainforest Alliance and organic certified chocolate. We

chocolate one purchase at a time.

**UMD: To someone who has never had one of your "exotic truffles," which one would you most recommend?**

*Katrina:* Naga, which is in our exotic truffle collection, was my first creation sweet Indian curry, coconut and milk chocolate and the Rooster, part of the Colezione Italiana, is a chocolate made with Italian Taleggio cheese, walnuts and bittersweet chocolate. Sooo good!

immersed in the present moment and it is a spiritual experience. Nature has the same effect on me.

**UMD: You have several boutiques in New York, Chicago, and Las Vegas and your chocolate is sold through numerous retailers around the U.S. Do you have any plans of expanding to Canada, Australia, or even Macedonia?**



purchase packaging made of post consumer recycled paper, renewable resources, or biodegradable materials. We buy our cleaning products and office supplies from organic and recycled vendors. We power our manufacturing facility and boutiques with 100% renewable energy. We bring peace to the world through

**UMD: Several of your lines are tied with music. How have music influenced and shaped your life, and your brand of chocolates?**

*Katrina:* Music inspires me in a very primal way. It flows through me and I immediately connect with it's energy. When I love a rhythm I am completely

*Katrina:* I dream of actually manufacturing in Macedonia and supplying chocolates to Europe. I talk about it all the time with my husband. We are sold in a few stores in Canada, but a boutique there would be fantastic. Australia I LOVE. It is a perfect market for Vosges now I just need to find the right partner there. ✨

## UMD in Australia

By Igor Zvezdakoski

### *UMD Australian Team Secures Place in Macedonian-Australian Community*

This past summer was a busy time for UMD in Australia. Led by UMD's Director of Australian Operations and UMD Board Member Ordan Andreevski, UMD undertook several activities to strengthen UMD's presence in Australia.

UMD continued building links with key community organizations such as the Macedonian Community Council of Victoria, the Organizing Committee of Australian Macedonian Community in Victoria, and the Macedonian Community of Western Australia, among others.

UMD is communicating with governmental officials on a number of Macedonian-Australian matters and is working for Australia to shift its unsustainable position on Macedonia's constitutional name. UMD has also nurtured relations with the Australia-Macedonia Inter-Parliamentary Group and is urging it to advance bilateral relations amongst Macedonia and Australia both economically and culturally.

UMD's Australia team increased its media outreach, published op-ed pieces in influential Australian publications, and is educating Australian media outlets on Macedonian issues. Australian Macedonian Weekly, headed by Ljupco Stankovski, has been promoting UMD to Macedonian-Australians. In addition, UMD established dialogue with key foreign policy think tanks in Australia including the Lowy Institute for International Policy, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, and the European Research Centers at Australian universities.

As it has in North America, UMD is also expanding its links and partnerships with other diaspora organizations in Australia, including Jewish, Irish, Polish, Chinese, Russian, and Turkish communities and others that understand the problems faced by Macedonia and its diaspora.

In the coming months, UMD looks forward to adding more content to its website focused on UMD's presence and activities in Australia. Please contact [australia@umdiaspora.org](mailto:australia@umdiaspora.org) for more information about UMD in Australia. ✨

## Macedonian Independence Day Boat Cruise

By Biljana Dimitrovska

On September 8, 2008, over 80 Macedonians and friends of Macedonia from the greater Washington, D.C. area came together to celebrate Macedonia's Independence Day on a



Ambassador Reeker

Potomac River boat cruise. The cruise featured Macedonian music, Ajvar, and a cocktail hour.

Newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia, Philip T. Reeker, and his wife Solveig, joined in celebrating Macedonia's Independence Day and greeted the guests with short remarks. Macedonian Ambassador Dr. Zoran Jolevski and his family along with several staff members from the Embassy attended as well. ✨

## UMD Attend NYC Event Honoring Macedonia's Prime Minister

By Ivona Grimberg

UMD members Ivona Grimberg, Beti Papuckoska, Slavko Madzarov and Zvonko Veskov attended a luncheon held by the Business Council for International Understanding on August 29, 2008, in honor of Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski. The event was held at the Blue Fin restaurant in the heart of Times Square and was attended by numerous Macedonian and American businessmen and investors, as well as by representatives of the Macedonian embassy in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. State Department, including Ambassador Zoran Jolevski and Ambassador Philip T. Reeker.

During the event, Mr. Gruevski spoke about the efforts of the Macedonian government in attracting foreign investors in Macedonia. Such efforts include lowering the corporate tax rate to one of the lowest in all of Europe, investing in vital new infrastructure projects, improving existing infrastructure, and improving the transparency of the bidding process for various investment projects in Macedonia.

The guests also had an opportunity to ask various questions of Prime Minister Gruevski. Of particular interest to the guests were the AMBO oil pipeline project, improvements to the process by which various investment projects in Macedonia may be bid upon by foreign investors, and the Macedonian government's work to improve the cultural image of Macedonia in the United States and abroad.

After the luncheon, Prime Minister Gruevski attended the closing of the NASDAQ stock exchange, followed by a visit to Macedonian community in New Jersey. ✨



# UMD Delegation Visits Macedonia

By Denis Manevski

In July 2008, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski led a UMD delegation to Macedonia consisting of UMD Treasurer Denis Manevski, UMD Board Member Igor Zvezdakovski, UMD Co-Founder Zak Milenkovski, UMD Member Emil Ivanovski, Macedonian-American actor Kristopher Maslardzievski, and Australian-Macedonian business couple Lidija and Ivan Neshkovski.

UMD's delegation met with President Branko Crvenkovski, Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Milososki. At these meetings, UMD stressed the need to stand firm on Macedonia's name, protection of the rights of Macedonians in neighboring countries, the Diaspora's ability to vote, and the continuation of judicial reforms necessary to meet EU and international standards. UMD also met with the Director of the Agency for Emigration, Vasil Naumov, and discussed ways to improve the relations between the Diaspora and Macedonia.

UMD and the Agency of Emigration announced collaboration in several projects that both will undertake in the coming years. Next, UMD met with His Beatitude, Archbishop Stefan

of the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

UMD also met with the EU Ambassador to Macedonia, Erwan Fouere, France's Ambassador, Bernard Valero, the

helping to strengthen Macedonia's EU-integration. UMD informed Ambassador Valero that UMD is ready to assist in furthering cultural and socio-economic ties between France and Macedonia. Macedonia, being a member of Francophile nations, embraces French culture and language. With Ambassador Braun, UMD expressed hope that during the Czech Presidency of the EU, starting January 2008, Macedonia will receive a date for negotiations for entry into the EU. UMD discussed ways to help Macedonia's less fortunate children with Norway's ambassador.



*UMD Delegation with EU Ambassador Erwan Fouere and EU Task Manager Dejan Gjorsoski*



*UMD Co-Founder Zak Milenkovski taking media questions*

Czech Republic's Ambassador, Jozef Braun, and Norway's Ambassador, Carl Wibye. UMD discussed furthering EU, French, Czech, and Norwegian support to Macedonia and

and Lidija Neshkovski visited an orphanage and discussed ways to help the children there with the orphanage's director. ✨



Photos courtesy of: Emil Ivanovski

Left to right: Aleksandar Mitreski, Mila Manevska, Aleksandra Trpkovska, Andrej Josifov, Prime Minister Gruevski, Denis Manevski, Igor Cvetkov, Gorgi Popstefanov and Metodija A. Koloski

## Macedonian Prime Minister Gruevski Visits New Jersey for 34th Annual Diocese Convention; UMD Uses Opportunity to Highlight Efforts

By Stojan Nikolov

The 34th Annual American-Canadian Macedonian Orthodox Diocese Convention held over Labor Day weekend (August 29-31, 2008) in Totowa, New Jersey brought together Macedonians from all over North America in celebration of Macedonian heritage and religion. Macedonia's Prime Minister, Nikola Gruevski, and the Archbishop of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, Archbishop Stefan, traveled to be part of the weekend's festivities. St. Nikola Macedonian Orthodox Church, the host of the Convention, organized various events including an archpastoral divine liturgy, a folklore contest featuring a dozen Macedonian folklore ensembles from North America, friendly soccer tournaments, and plenty of dances. Joyful faces filled the halls as young and old danced the nights away to Macedonian ora.

With the blessing of the Bishop of the American-Canadian Macedonian Orthodox Diocese, Bishop Metodij, UMD held an informational meeting following the Sunday divine liturgy in St. Nikola hall. Over 250 Macedonians gathered for the meeting expressing interest in UMD's work. UMD President Meto Koloski introduced the organization and gave a general overview of the status of UMD. Aleksandar Mitreski, UMD's Vice President, briefed the audience on UMD's advocacy efforts on the name issue and the rights of the Macedonian minorities in neighboring Balkan countries. Aleksandra Trpkovska, who handles UMD's charitable and cultural activities, discussed ways Macedonians can get involved in helping Macedonia's less fortunate children and how one can promote our rich Macedonian heritage. Former UMD International Policy and Diplomacy Fellow Gorgi Popstefanov highlighted his work with UMD, particularly his advocacy efforts in Congress. Last but not least Denis Manevski, UMD's Treasurer,

gave a presentation on UMD's current financials and announced to the audience that courtesy of the Turkish Coalition of America, every dollar donated to UMD for the next three years would be matched up to a total of \$150,000.

UMD also used this opportunity to announce the UMD Global Conference to be held on June 11, 12, and 13, 2009. The presentations made by UMD's officers and volunteers were well received by the meeting participants and on several occasions received standing ovations. During the question and answer session Bogdan Simonovski, the president of Sts. Clement of Ohrid Macedonian Orthodox Church in New York City, and Simo Mitrevski, the president of St. Mary Macedonian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles praised UMD for its vigor, enthusiasm, and activeness. Most importantly, elderly Macedonians were pleased to see young Macedonians getting more and more involved in issues concerning our people. Following the meeting, dozens signed up to become members of UMD and made donations in support of UMD's future work.

That evening, UMD attended the Convention Gala Banquet. Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ, 8th District) addressed the banquet and reiterated his strong support for Macedonia. The highlight of the banquet was the remarks given by Macedonia's Prime Minister, Nikola Gruevski, who thanked the Diaspora for solidifying the bonds between their respective countries and Macedonia. Prime Minister Gruevski underscored his government's policies on the economy and regional stability and peace. He concluded by stressing the need for unity among our people. ✨



## Taneff Named Honorary Macedonian Consul

By Marcy Fleisher

At a ceremony in Columbus, Ohio, on June 19, 2008, the Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the United States, Dr. Zoran Jolevski, named Thomas Taneff of Columbus, Ohio, as an Honorary Consul of the Republic of Macedonia. Taneff becomes the first ever Macedonian Honorary Consul in the Mid-West and joins just two other Macedonian Honorary Consuls nationwide. The ceremony also marked the opening of the Honorary Macedonian Consulate Office housed in Taneff's downtown Columbus law firm.

As Honorary Consul it will be Taneff's mission to encourage Ohio businesses to consider Macedonia for economic expansion cultivate cultural exchanges between those in Central Ohio and Macedonia, and promote tourism in Macedonia. Taneff is a first generation American whose parents are both of

Macedonian descent, maintains a home in Macedonia, and is fluent in Macedonian.

While in Columbus, Ambassador Jolevski and his delegation, including Gligor Tashkovich, Macedonia's Minister of Foreign Investment, and Igor Dukoski, second secretary at the Macedonian Embassy in Washington, D.C. participated in two days of meetings designed to highlight opportunities and exchanges between Macedonia and Ohio. The Macedonian delegation met with members of the



Thomas Taneff with Macedonian Government representatives

Central Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Governor Strickland's Director of Global Relations, representatives from both the Ohio State University and Battelle, and with several prominent Columbus business executives. ✨

## UMD Attends UN Reception for Dr. Srgjan Kerim

By Ivona Grimberg



Ivona Grimberg, Beti Papuckoska, Aleksandar Mitreski and friends with Simon Trpceski

On September 10, 2008, UMD representatives led by UMD Vice President Aleksandar Mitreski, attended a reception at the United Nations on the occasion of the closing of the Sixty-Second Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The reception was held in honor of the President of the UN General Assembly, Dr. Srgjan Kerim of the Republic of Macedonia, who presided over the General Assembly over the past year.

The occasion was marked by a speech by Dr. Kerim and special thanks to him by Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, who thanked and praised Dr. Kerim for his outstanding work at the United Nations.

The evening ended with a concert performed by esteemed Macedonian pianist Simon Trpceski, who, as always, proved to be a maestro by entertaining the guests with a wonderful performance of classical music and select Macedonian tunes.

UMD thanks Dr. Kerim for his work at the UN and for promoting and representing the Republic of Macedonia so well during his service as the President of the United Nations General Assembly. ✨



Dr. Srgjan Kerim

Aleks with Ambassador Korneti



# Trip to Turkey Sparks Idea for Macedonians

By Aleksandra Trpkovska

Photos courtesy of: Aleksandra Trpkovska

cuisine – both traditional and modern. We also had the chance to learn about the modern Turkish cultural and economic environment.

While visiting Ankara, Macedonian Ambassador Melpomeni Korneti joined the tour group for a dinner discussion. She was in the company of the current U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, the former Turkish Ambassador to USA, as well as other prominent guests. Ambassador Korneti referenced the positive working relationship between Turkey and Macedonia, since Macedonia's independence in 1991 and commented that Turkey is both a political and economic friend of Macedonia.

Ambassador Korneti's remarks are confirmed by the fact that Turkey was among the first nations to recognize Macedonia's constitutional name and supports Macedonia's admission to NATO without regard for the "name dispute" instigated by Athens. As to economic cooperation, in September, the Turkish company Borteknik Otomotiv announced it will invest 20 million Euros into building a factory in Macedonia that will eventually employ at least 300 Macedonians in the next three years and the Turkish company TAV was recently approved to rebuild Macedonia's airports.

To say that I had a great experience in Turkey, it would be an understatement. My experience underscored the need for Macedonia, UMD, and other Macedonian organizations to undertake similar efforts for both members of the Macedonian Diaspora and for friends of Macedonia. However, such efforts will require support from the Macedonian government and Macedonians in the Diaspora. I urge those Macedonians in the Diaspora interested in planning and facilitating such efforts to contact UMD Headquarters so that UMD can lead such planning and efforts. ✨



Aleks in front of the Hagia Sofia

I recently returned from a 15-day tour of Turkey. The tour, organized by the Turkish Cultural Foundation, offered an ambitious 15-day exploration of Turkey which covered cities as far east as Edirne, as west as Sivas, as north as Ankara, and as south as the fairytale like Cappadocia. The goal of the tour was simple and admirable: by inviting strategic guests, create "good-will" ambassadors for Turkey. The tour guests included numerous business and political leaders of importance to Turkey, hence the invitation by the Turkish Cultural Foundation to United Macedonian Diaspora to send a UMD member on trip.

So, what did I do on this 15-day trip? Starting with three magnificent (and long days) in Istanbul, going to the fields of Gallipoli to see the fallen soldiers of World War I, crossing the Dardanelles, and walking through Troy are just some of the highlights of my tour of Turkey. Those were just the first five days!

Turkey offered me an appreciation for history that one can rarely find. Having left Macedonia at the age of 14, even though I was able to recite a list of dates of historical importance, I was not aware of the tangible importance of history. Traveling through Turkey and seeing the impact of the many conquerors of that land, among which is Alexander the Great, inspired me to initiate trips such as these to Macedonia – trips that will allow visitors to learn and appreciate Macedonia's rich history and culture.

The tour guests and I did not just learn about history however. We had a chance to savor and appreciate Turkish



## Macedonian-American Golf "Scramble" A Hole-In-One Success

By Tom J. Hristovski

On August 16, 2008, the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, kicked off its first annual "Golf Scramble," to bring the Macedonian-Americans of Ohio and friends together, and to raise funds for the church.

For a small donation, all players received a round of golf at Cumberland Trails Golf Course and a fine dinner provided by church volunteers. Cash prizes were awarded to the top three teams and to individuals, as well. The winning team of Ben Stefanovski, Tim Dodovski, Beau Smith and Brent Gardner shot an amazing final score of 12 under par, and went home with \$300. Tim Dodovski launched an incredible drive to win the Longest Drive Competition. On the 18th hole, Chad Peoples drained a 30-foot putt to win the Longest Putt competition. Winners of the Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin and Longest Putt competition each received \$50.

There were many opportunities to win prizes at this event. Dick Masheter Ford in Columbus graciously sponsored Hole-in-One contests on the par threes, where players could win a two-year lease on a Ford Edge or great vacation packages. A host of local Columbus sponsors took part by sponsoring individual holes for \$175 each, including Ricart Automotive Group, Dick Masheter Ford, Jordan's Pub & Deli, Minuteman Pizza, Whiskey Ranch Bar and United Macedonian Diaspora. Finally, autographed footballs and mini-helmets signed by the 2008 Ohio State Football Team where also raffled off, with all ticket proceeds going to the church.

The Dormition of the Virgin Mary Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral would like to send a special thank you to all of our sponsors, and to all the participants and sponsors who made sure this event was a huge success.

For more information about sponsoring or participating in next year's event, please contact:

The Dormition of the Virgin Mary Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral  
400 South Waggoner Rd., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Attention: "Golf Scramble"

Phone: 614-861-8700

Website: <http://www.macedonianchurch.org> ✪



UMD member Nikola T. Labudovski

## An Interview with ETERNadent

**Meto Koloski:** Dr. Bundalevska, congratulations to you and your team on such an exciting project. Can you please tell us a little bit more about the concept of ETERNAdent?

**Dr. Ana Bundalevska:** Thank you Meto, for your kind words. The idea for opening this modern, state-of-the-art dental clinic has been growing in each one of us separately for a long time... we all already had the same concept in our minds. Now lead by Dr. Ana Minovska, professor at the Dental School in Skopje, we have taken a revolutionary approach to dental care here in Macedonia. We provide our patients with comprehensive dental care, which means that from the moment they enter the office, they will get everything they need to achieve ideal oral health. This also includes a prevention program, and a wide variety of cosmetic services. At ETERNAdent, we believe that every patient is unique, and may need a unique treatment protocol as well. This shift from remedial to preventative dental care, in conjunction with the availability of new technologies, has yielded tremendous results in other countries. Now, for the first time in Macedonia, these cutting-edge techniques are finally available.

**Meto Koloski:** I suppose that in order to be able to achieve all these goals, you need a mixture of modern technology and a highly qualified staff.

**Dr. Daniela Cvetanovska:** Absolutely. There is a saying that you can't build a house if you don't have the tools. Well, thanks to our investor, we supplied our office is equipped with the latest dental technology currently available. Everything required for a healthy and beautiful smile is here! Our materials and procedures are ADA (American Dental Association) approved and CE certified. Our staff includes three full-time dental care professionals, with top-level education and training. We also welcome visiting professors and specialists from the Dental School to work on the special cases. We have provide excellent service in a very relaxing atmosphere with soothing music and a pleasant, helpful staff.

**Meto Koloski:** What makes ETERNAdent different from other clinics in Macedonia?

**Dr. Ana Bundalevska:** As opposed to the common "drill-and-fill" philosophy, we do minimally-invasive dentistry, following the world trend of preserving vital tissues as much as possible. Also, we offer cosmetic dentistry treatments such as Sapphire™ teeth whitening, veneers, full porcelain crowns and inlays. We are proud to be the only clinic to offer the American LUMINEERS™ smile. This is a cosmetic procedure which gives you the perfect permanently white smile, without any tooth structure removal. Lumineers™ are porcelain veneers as thin as contact lenses which are being placed over your natural teeth and are correcting crooked teeth, dark teeth (permanent whitening) worn teeth, and broken teeth. They are proven to last up to 20 years, but you can remove them at any point and you'll have your natural teeth untouched! This is a real revolution in the 4000 years of dentistry; in fact, the dentists themselves and their staff members were the first to take the advantage of this new technology.

I've got them, too! And, of course, we also do more traditional prosthetics, such as dental bridges, crowns, and dentures.

**Dr. Daniela Cvetanovska:** We also offer modern solutions for missing teeth. The best substitutes for your own teeth are dental implants. They preserve the jaw bone, and they look and feel natural. This painless procedure is done routinely by a specialist. We work with one of the top 5 implant systems worldwide called Ankylos by Dentsply. Implants avoid the need for dentures, and they replace missing teeth without drilling into healthy ones to attach a bridge. For diagnosis, we use a digital Kodak x-ray, which means a fraction of the radiation for the patient and much better resolution for us. ETERNAdent is currently applying for ISO standardization, as well.

**Dr. Gjorgji Parcanov:** I work mainly in periodontology, commonly called gum disease treatment. My number one tool is the latest version of laser called the FOTONA Fidelis III, which is for both hard and soft tissue. It enables us to completely sterilize our work area, and we all know that bacteria are the cause of gum disease. Also, the laser stops bleeding and promotes fast healing of tissues. In cases of very deep decay, we can avoid root canal treatment because we know that the tissue under the filling is absolutely sterile. And speaking of sterility, I have to mention that we have adopted the US CDC (Center for Disease Control) sterilization protocol, so we satisfy the highest standards.

**Meto Koloski:** I know that you have many international patients, diplomats, etc. Do you accept dental insurance?

**Dr. Bundalevska:** So far, we have worked only as a private dental clinic, which means a pay per service method. But we do provide dental insurance claim statements, which the patients use for getting a refund. We are working on a new partnership with an international medical insurance company, as well as with the American Embassy in Macedonia, which will allow us to offer much more affordable prices to US citizens in Macedonia.

**Meto Koloski:** Talking about prices... does the perfect smile have to cost a fortune?

**Dr. Ana Bundalevska:** Well, not exactly. Since we provide such a wide spectrum of dental services, everyone can find one which suits his budget best. The basic ones are truly affordable to everyone. Cosmetic procedures are a bit more pricey, but still so much more affordable than if you would get them in US. Actually, the secret of the perfect smile lies in the healthy smile. At ETERNAdent, we educate our patients how to maintain their oral health for life time.

**Meto Koloski:** It was really a pleasure to meet you and your office staff. I hope there will be no other reason to visit you soon, rather than to see each other or to have my teeth cleaned! I feel proud that world-class services such as these are available in Macedonia, so thank you very much for your important work.

**ETERNadent:** It was a pleasure for us to have you as our guests!





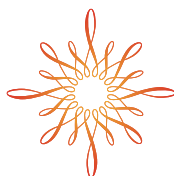
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