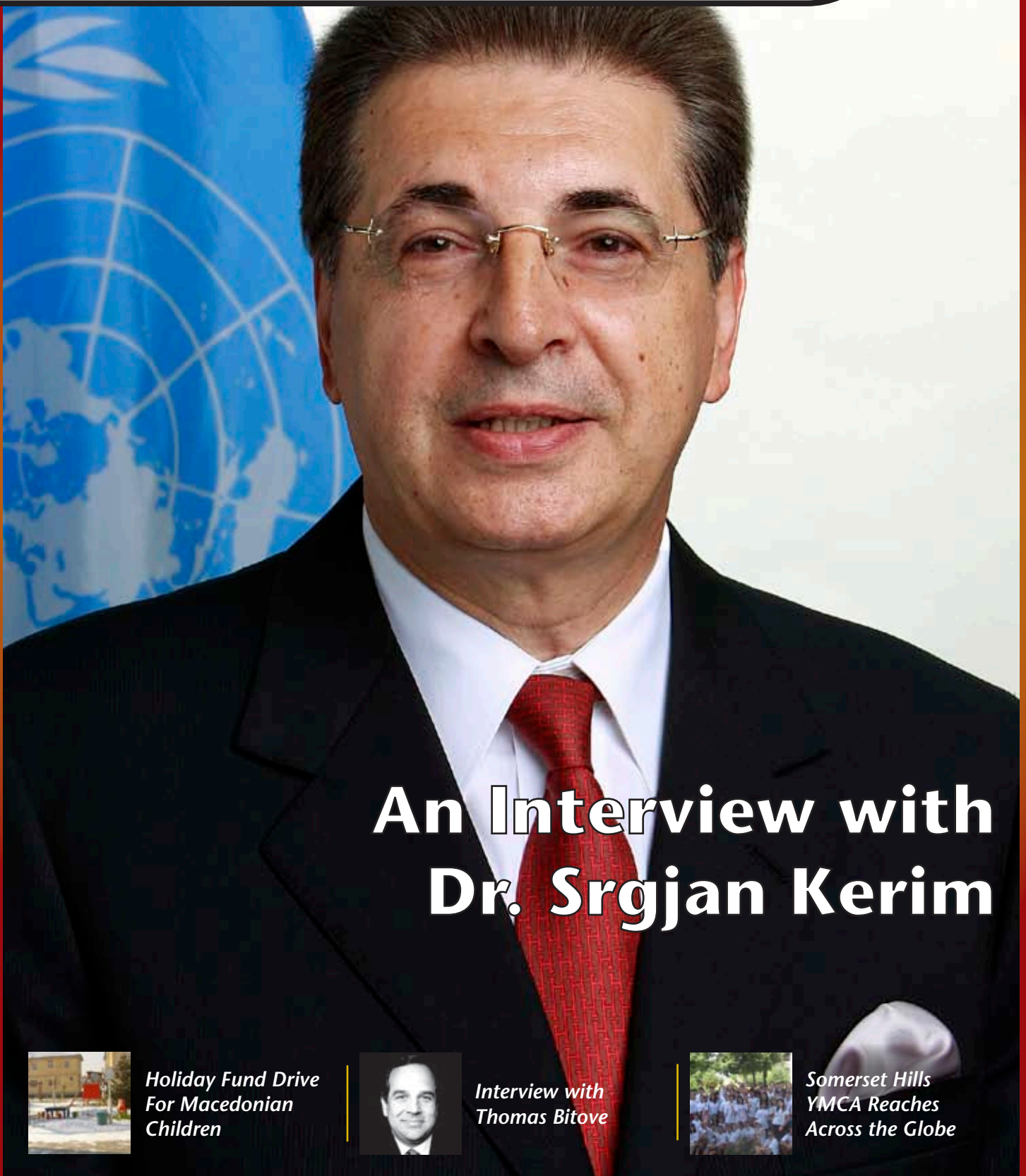


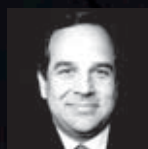
UMD Voice



An Interview with Dr. Srgjan Kerim



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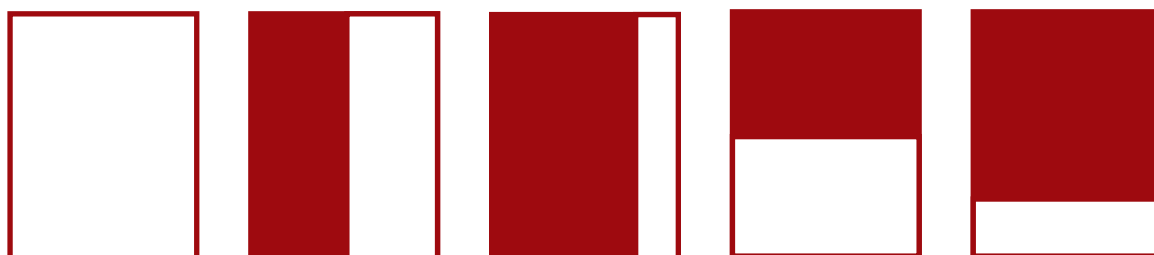


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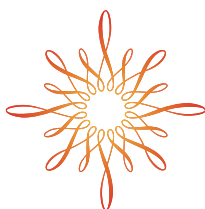
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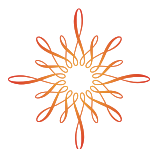
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Founded in 2004, United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) is an international non-governmental organization addressing the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities throughout the world.

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



Welcome to our new magazine *UMD Voice*!

Dear Reader,

The first issue of *UMD Quarterly* was downloaded from our website over 16,000 times since its release! We are thrilled by the positive response from our members and readers. On behalf of the Board of Directors, allow me to introduce *UMD Voice*. This is one of our organization's most significant tools and we are confident that it is destined to become the premier publication in the global Macedonian Diaspora.

In this issue, you can read about UMD's important and necessary work in Washington, D.C., and throughout the world. During the past few months, UMD representatives visited major Diaspora communities in the United States, Australia, and Canada, learning about the needs of Macedonians throughout the world. The issues facing our people are wide-ranging, from education to immigration, from the "name issue" to civil rights, and from territorial and regional security to NATO and EU membership. No matter the challenge, UMD is at the forefront of it all – *thanks to you*.

The recent Greek veto of Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic integration was a disgrace to the ideals that the Euro-Atlantic community was built on. However, this has not discouraged us. In fact, it has united Macedonians throughout the world against the actions of the Greek regime. The Macedonian attitude is one of calm resistance to Greek oppression, and despite all of the adversity it has faced, the Republic of Macedonia is a beacon of light in the Balkans -- a role model for Southeastern Europe.

UMD is raising funds to establish a more solid base in Washington, D.C. and to hire a full-time staff. The support we received during our fall fundraising drive was fantastic, and we opened a small office last month in downtown Washington, D.C. Our Board has outlined a \$200,000 target goal for this year, and we are planning UMD events and activities in the United States, Australia, Canada, and Europe; we invite you to get involved and participate in a UMD event and activity near you.

Our friendships and working relationships are growing throughout the global policymaking community. UMD represents the future of the global Macedonian Diaspora – progressive, moderate, hard working, professional, and dedicated.

Help us move the Macedonian cause forward by supporting UMD, and please enjoy this issue of *UMD Voice*.

Sincerely,

Metodija "Meto" A. Koloski
President

Australian Macedonians Say It Loud: "Macedonia, Macedonians, Forever"

By *Ordan Andreevski, Ljupco Stankovski, and Igor Zvezdakoski*

Macedonia, now recognized under its constitutional name by 124 countries, including the U.S., China, Russia, the UK, and Canada.

Titled "Macedonia, Macedonians, Forever," the event in downtown Melbourne gave loud and clear support for the right of the Macedonians to their biblical and constitutional name, their unique culture, language and identity.

Organizers also called on the UN, the EU and nations such as Australia to protect the rights of Macedonians, including the ethnic Macedonian minority in Greece, which has been oppressed since the Treaty of Bucharest of 1913.

The passion for this protest came at a critical time, just as Greece and its decreasing number of supporters managed to illegally veto

team of volunteers. In less than a month, very diverse groups were organized using the latest techniques of project management, with special working groups focused on Media Relations, Government Relations, Community Relations, Internet and Direct Communication, Fundraising, and Merchandizing.

UMD assisted in planning, operations, printing and distribution of promotional flyers, program design, web communications, speech writing and media relations. UMD also created a Media Alert, a Media Briefing Kit and a Media Release, which were sent to all major press and broadcast media outlets across Australia, as well as to all Federal Members of Parliament and EU diplomatic missions in Canberra.

The event successfully drew media attention in Australia, Macedonia, Canada and the U.S., and demonstrated the peaceful Macedonian spirit, and how it can be harnessed for positive change and social justice. ✨



UMD plays key role in peaceful Melbourne rally

More than 20,000-strong Australian Macedonians gathered in a massive show of unity on the steps of Victoria's parliament in Melbourne to show their support for Macedonia.

Protesters loudly appealed to the Rudd Government to discontinue Australia's official use of the term "former Yugoslav" and stand up for Macedonian human rights and self-determination. Australia remains one of the few notable exceptions to a global wave of diplomatic support for

Macedonia's entry into NATO. Talks on European integration are also stalled; both types of interference having been expressly forbidden by international treaties that Greece signed, and taking Athens' international diplomatic reputation to an all-new low.

Local police praised the organizers for a peaceful rally without incident, thanks in part to the foresight of the Organizing Committee and a large





Photos: UMD Staff

Holiday Fund Drive Benefits Children, Homeless, and Elderly in Macedonia

By Marina Veljanovska

Through a heartwarming display of holiday giving, UMD's drive to support Macedonia's less fortunate exceeded fundraising expectations, providing them with a much needed gift from the Diaspora. The outpouring of generosity benefited more people than initially expected, and donations were made to benefit less fortunate children, homeless, hungry, and elderly. Volunteers used the funds to purchase in-kind donations of food and other supplies in Macedonia.

All 108 children living in the SOS Children's Village - Macedonia (Detsko Selo) for orphans and neglected children received a package containing a pair of gloves, a scarf, a hat, toys, and candy. SOS Children's Villages is an international nonprofit organization active in 132 countries and territories worldwide. SOS Children's Villages provide family-based,

long-term care for orphans and children who can no longer grow up with their biological families.

A ten-day supply of fresh milk was donated to the Home for Babies and Toddlers in Bitola for the orphaned children in their care, and food was donated to the public kitchen at St. Petka's church, which provides daily meals to many of Skopje's hungry and unemployed. Food was also purchased and donated to laid-off factory workers who lost their savings and pensions during Macedonia's transition to a market economy.

For more information about UMD's charitable projects during 2008, please contact Aleksandra Trpkovska (586) 383-1721. ❄️



Florida's Lou Vlasho Named Macedonian Honorary Consul

By Aleksandar Mitreski

A formal luncheon on February 8, 2008 marked the opening of the second Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Macedonia in the U.S., with the naming of Lou Vlasho as the Honorary Consul in Florida. Several Macedonian dignitaries were among the 200 guests that filled the Vergina Restaurant in Naples, Florida for the occasion, including Dr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the 62nd General Assembly of the United Nations, Antonio Milososki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, and Zoran Jolevski, Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the United States.

Vlasho received a standing ovation when he took the podium and reflected modestly on his achievements. "It is humbling to have been elected Honorary Consul by the Government of Macedonia. I have always tried to the best of my ability to help Macedonia and the Macedonians in need" said Vlasho. Macedonians in attendance felt that the event was not only a celebration of Lou's work, but of the Macedonian Diaspora's involvement with Macedonia as a whole. Addressing the audience, Dr. Kerim stated "It's good that people know that the U.S. has with Macedonia a small, but reliable ally. I want during my tenure [as U.N. General Assembly President] to reach out to Americans." Ambassador Jolevski praised Vlasho for "actively and profoundly" promoting Macedonia and Macedonian culture in the U.S.

In addition, attending the event were Naples Mayor Bill Barnett, who presented the Macedonian delegation with the Key to the City and proclaimed

February 8th as Macedonia Day in Naples, and representatives from the offices of Senators Mel Martinez and Bill Nelson, Congressman Connie Mack, and City Councilman Rob Popoff of Marco Island, FL, who is of Macedonian descent. In their congratulatory letters, the American legislators praised Vlasho for his work with them in the past, and for his efforts as a Macedonian-American by remarking to Vlasho that his "efforts will help forge a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Macedonian heritage in the United States," and that his "intelligence and diplomatic skills have earned the respect of those that have come to know" him.

Vlasho has been involved in numerous humanitarian activities to benefit Macedonia and Macedonians – on one occasion he personally reached out to healthcare supply giant Johnson & Johnson and urged them to send medical equipment to help a deathly ill child in Macedonia. When Macedonia gained its independence, Lou seized the opportunity to share his vast knowledge of business and finance with Macedonian entrepreneurs, preparing them for the rigors of a market-based economy. In the United States, Vlasho helped establish a scholarship program for Macedonian undergraduate students at Ohio University, his alma mater, together with Macedonia-based businessman Risto Gusterov.

Vlasho is a successful entrepreneur and is currently the Vice President of the Rimaco Corporation, which operates the prestigious Vergina Restaurant in downtown Naples.



Lou Vlasho with Ambassador Jolevski





Every day, Toni Simovski reminds his students about how the world affects their lives. The South Lyon High School government teacher plays video clips of news events and audio recordings of Supreme Court decisions. His students attend school board and city council meeting - sometimes asking pointed questions of the board members.

Because of all of these activities, Simovski was named the Civic Education Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Center for Civic Education.

"I just want to make kids active participants," Simovski said. "I have a fear of us becoming too passive."

Simovski was nominated by fellow government teacher Ray Divitto, his mentor and college professor Leslie Thornton, and his wife, Natalie, a graphic designer who put together an impressive nomination package that included an audio recording.

"I thought he does a very good job at the school and is a very dedicated teacher," Divitto said of Simovski. "He does a very fine job of reaching out to the students in

a fun and exciting way."

Simovski had no idea he had won until it was announced last month at a luncheon attended by 200 teachers, administrators and others involved with civic education.

"It was a total surprise," Simovski said. "They said, 'This recipient often brings in guest speakers and has been teaching [Advanced Placement] government for nine years.' I thought, 'Well, that could be me.' Then they said, 'He was a translator in Macedonia.' That kind of sealed it for me."

Simovski speaks five languages including Macedonian, Serbian, Bosnian and Albanian, and in 1998-1999 he was in the thick of the break up of Yugoslavia. Simovski was a contractor with the Department of Defense and was assigned to work as a translator for the United States Army in the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia. He translated for U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Vice President Al Gore and Secretary of Defense William Cohen, as well as soldiers in the field. His work also took him throughout the region including to

War-time Lessons Translate into Statewide Award

By Jessie Ellis

Published in the January 10, 2008 edition of the *South Lyon Herald* (Reprinted with permission)

Bosnia and Albania.

On his classroom wall he hangs photographs of his time as an interpreter.

"The kids love these stories," he said. "Wow! This guy knows top secret stuff." Along with the pictures he has a plaque recognizing him as runner-up for Oakland County Teacher of the Year, and thank you letters from congressmen and women who have come to speak to his classes over the years.

Simovski's unique perspective to history informs his teaching philosophy, he said. Teaching government is about a lot more than just how it works. It is also about how government often doesn't work and why. It is about learning to think about the consequences of bad governance. His often trying times as a translator has helped Simovski appreciate his new life as a teacher. At the University of Michigan-Dearborn, his professor, Leslie Thornton, encouraged him to become a teacher.

"My professor talked me into it," Simovski said. "He said I had a knack for it, that I'm a natural born teacher."

That knack has translated into lessons that are more informed by YouTube than textbooks. Simovski recognizes that his students learn by doing.

"They're very positive, even for being in a required class," Simovski said of his American Government students. "They say, 'At least he's making it interesting.'"

Of course the recognition is nice, but for Simovski, it's all about educating his students. "I just want to make them aware of what's going on," he said.

Contact Jessie Ellis at (248) 437-2011 or jjellis@gannett.com



Left to right: Meto Koloski, Dr. Kerim, and Aleksandar Mitreski

Interview with UN's 62nd General Assembly President Dr. Srgjan Kerim

by Alexander Krstevski

Dr. Srgjan Kerim is a seasoned Macedonian diplomat with a career spanning over three decades. In previous capacities, Dr. Kerim has served as Macedonian Ambassador to Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and to the United Nations, and later as Macedonian Foreign Minister. He has lectured widely on Balkan issues, is the author of nine books dealing with international politics, economics and youth, and has written more than 100 scholarly papers, many of which have been published in countries across Europe.

UMD: How did it happen that you were nominated for the presidency of the UN General Assembly? (What was the process like both in Macedonia and within the UN itself that lead to the selection of a candidate and the campaign leading up to the vote in the UN?)

Kerim: The President of the United

Nations General Assembly is chosen for one year. The post rotates among the 192 member states of the organization based on the principle of equitable geographic distribution which in practice means that each year a country from a different regional grouping nominates the President. Macedonia is part of the so-called East European group which last nominated a candidate in 2002. Following presidencies from the Latin American, the African, the Western European and the Asian groups, it was our regional group's turn again and the regional group put forward my candidacy which was then supported and accepted by the full membership of the United Nations.

UMD: Can you describe what is involved in a day's work as president of the GA?

Kerim: The president's work is to facilitate and guide the political negotiation work of the member states

in order to move them forward to reach concrete progress on the various common issues countries agreed to deal with through the United Nations such as climate change, protecting human rights, pursuing sustainable development or combating terrorism. Therefore, most of the daily work of the president revolves around engaging the representatives of Member States in various forms: meeting with them individually, bringing them together into various formal meetings, presiding over those meetings and making official visits to countries.

UMD: What are some of the challenges that you have come across since you started this post?

Kerim: I am experiencing what I think all my predecessors must have experienced: the challenge of harmonizing the various views and interests of the 192 Member States of this Organization. Bringing everyone to the negotiating table and keeping

them there is quite a task. Generating the necessary political will for common action and then maintaining this political will to actually achieve the commonly agreed goals is the real challenge. It is not enough to simply have countries agree on certain common approaches, whether on climate change or how to fight against terrorism or what goals to set as targets to have for sustainable development, it is equally challenging if not more so, to keep countries willing to commit resources and political attention focused on those commitments. An additional and newly evolving aspect that adds to this challenge is the fact that it is more and more obvious that there is a need to reach beyond governments and make the United Nations capable of effectively engaging non-governmental actors including civil society, academia and the private sector because they all have a role in tackling some of the major global challenges such as fighting HIV/AIDS or dealing with climate change.

UMD: Will you be able to help for further affirmation of Macedonia, and possibly influence the name negotiations?

Kerim: By electing a candidate from Macedonia, Member States have already given a very positive recognition of our country. As President, if I am able to do my job effectively and win the cooperation and support of the countries then through this I hope I can further enhance this positive international recognition for Macedonia.

Regarding the name negotiations, the Secretary-General has an envoy, Mr. Matthew Nimetz of the United States, who is in charge of this issue and the governments of Macedonia and Greece are negotiating on this issue with the facilitation of this envoy. This is a process that should be left to them.



Dr. Kerim with President Bush

UMD: In your acceptance speech, you mentioned that you will focus your energy on topics like global warming, immigration, and globalization. What has been done so far on these issues, and what do you hope to accomplish?

Kerim: Let me pick up on the global warming topic you mentioned. In some form or other this has been on the United Nations agenda for decades. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force in 1994 but member states decided to work on new legal instruments with stronger commitments. This eventually led to the Kyoto Protocol which was adopted in Japan in 1997. This Protocol calls for cutbacks in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by at least 5 per cent below the 1990 levels by 2012. So this is where we are now.

For me, one of the key tasks is to maintain the commitment of member states to their agreed goals, work with them on finding the ways and means to this as well as engage the countries that are not party to the Kyoto Protocol and also reach out to the non-governmental sphere, especially civil society and the business sector.

At the same time it is equally important to realize and acknowledge that climate change is not a simple environmental issue. It needs to be addressed from a broader and cross cutting perspective that also looks at its full implications on security, energy, health, economic development, human rights and global governance. With these implications and dimensions it is a true global

issue that touches every country in the world and an issue for the United Nations as it cuts to the heart of the Organization's key activities. This is why I have pushed this issue to be a key issue on the United Nations' agenda for the 62nd session. My goal is to build on the existing framework and commitment of member states and work towards a stronger and broader response to the climate change challenge and chart a roadmap that can take us to 2012 and beyond.

UMD: In that same speech, you mentioned that accomplishing tasks outlined in the Millennium Development Goals is very important, particularly in Africa. What can the UN do to avoid and mitigate conflicts and the subsequent loss of life in situations that may resemble those in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Darfur?

Kerim: One of the key tasks for us is of course to prevent conflicts from breaking out in the first place. This means addressing the root causes of conflicts and dealing with the conditions that may create the potential for, or further aggravate an existing crises situation in various regions and countries. The key issues on the agenda of the United Nations, such as development, human rights, governance, rule of law are crucial in this regard. It is also in this context that the Millennium Development Goals are important.

Apart from continuing our efforts in conflict prevention, we must also further enhance the United Nations work in peacekeeping and longer term peace building. The United Nations has a good track record in this regard. It has become a trusted and globally-sought peacekeeper. This is underscored by the fact that demand for this activity has grown exponentially. Close to 100,000 field personnel are currently deployed in UN operations. The combined costs of these missions have grown close to 20 fold in the past two decades to reach a combined budget of roughly 5.5 billion dollars. At the same time the tasks of personnel on the ground has shifted considerably from simply monitoring a cease-fire line to a wide array of military, police, social, economic and human rights functions. This growth in demand means that we must continuously strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to mount and sustain peacekeeping and peace building operations.

There must also be willingness on the part of the international community to get involved and act in conflict situations. I do see some very positive developments with Member States in 2005 agreeing to the principle of responsibility to protect – meaning a responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. World leaders agreed for the first time that states have a primary responsibility to protect their own populations and that the international community has a responsibility to act when these governments fail to protect the most vulnerable among us. The next step is to put the principle of responsibility to

protect effectively into practice.

UMD: Do you think that there should be reforms in the way that the Security Council operates? Do you think that the body should be enlarged, and which countries (if any) should be introduced?

Kerim: I share the view of the majority of countries that reform of the Security Council is essential for making its decisions more compatible with contemporary realities. But there is no consensus on the various formulas that have been put forward as to how to change the present composition. My predecessors have been dealing with this issue for over a decade since the establishment of a working group on Security Council reform within the General Assembly. I will build on their efforts and work and try to take the issue further.

UMD: What other reforms do you think are necessary for the UN to run as effectively as possible?

Kerim: Reforming the United Nations is almost as old as the Organization itself. In fact the United Nations has been in constant reform. The United Nations is a unique tool in the hands of its members, the countries represented by their governments. It is ultimately up to them whether they want to use this tool and how to work with it and how best to use this unique forum to respond to common challenges. So simply put, reform is about constantly adapting this unique tool to make it better equipped to deal with global problems. However, since global challenges have a changing nature and Member States also have shifting priorities this creates a constant reform challenge for the Organization. Therefore, reform should not be seen as an event but as an ongoing process. What is necessary is for Member States to have a clear vision and understanding as to what they want to achieve together on the various common issues they are discussing, whether climate change or terrorism or sustainable development or conflict prevention as well as for them to be willing to follow through on their

commitments with resources and political will. At the same time it is equally necessary to have the United Nations as an organization capable of achieving the tasks Member States assign to it by becoming more efficient, transparent and accountable. That is what reform must be about.

UMD: How long is the term of the president of the general assembly, and what do you plan to do afterwards?

Kerim: The term of a General Assembly President is one year – it is for one session of the Assembly. In my case it's the 62nd session which began on 18 September 2007 and ends in September 2008. The former Presidents of the General Assembly maintain an informal grouping and gather from time to time to exchange views and also propose ideas for improving the work of the United Nations, so I expect that I will maintain some close affiliation with the work of the Organization through that channel. At the same time I have enjoyed my work as the head of the southeastern European pillar of the WAZ media group before becoming the General Assembly president so I expect that I would rejoin the company after this one year with the United Nations.

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

Kerim: Globalization is bringing changes in the world creating great opportunities especially for young people, opening up the whole world for them to experience. I would encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity and be open to the world, to its different cultures and people. Gaining wide knowledge and having the ability to transform that knowledge, in whatever field it may be, to be able to use it with ease in a multicultural environment is very important. Also, the more languages one knows the easier one may adapt and transfer that knowledge and know how in what ever environment one is to work in. This is especially true for us with a language few people speak. However, I would also say that one

should never forget where one comes from. We should always cherish our own national identities and be proud of who we are. Without respect for our own roots we cannot respect the cultures and identities of others.

UMD: What do you miss the most about Macedonia?

Kerim: I would say mostly I miss the friends I have at home – their company, the relaxed atmosphere and discussions we have had over local food and drinks -- and coffee. And talking about coffee: I must confess that in spite of all the variety of coffee flavors New York offers, I do miss the coffee from home. Also, of course the country itself, the natural surroundings, especially the long quiet walks in the mountains.

UMD: After a long day at the UN, how do you relax in New York City?

Kerim: New York is a great city – it seems fast and always moving but I find that it can also be quite relaxing. For me, taking a walk in Central Park is a great way to cleanse my mind and clear my thoughts. Going to a Broadway show or an opera at the Metropolitan is another way for me to unwind after a long day.

UMD: How do you like NYC as a place to live?

Kerim: New York is a unique intellectual and cultural city which I have always enjoyed. Its multicultural and lively character is something I like. I must confess that I am utterly cosmopolitan and this city is utterly cosmopolitan so we are absolutely on the same wavelength.

UMD: What is your favorite music band/artist?

Kerim: I have always liked listening to Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Louis Armstrong and of course Ella Fitzgerald. That is my favored musical world. But most recently a friend of mine gave me a CD from the group, The Pink Martinis. The moment I heard them – they play a wide selection of international easy-listening type lounge music – I became a fan. In fact I decided to buy a copy of their most recent CD for each member of my team as a welcome gift just as the General Assembly opened. Little did I know that by ordering close to 30 copies of their CD I became their favorite customer and weeks later I find my name mentioned in an article in the Los Angeles Times that portrayed the Band. So now the Pink Martinis have definitely entered my musical world and it seems that the 62nd General Assembly and its President has entered theirs. ✨



Dr. and Mrs. Kerim with Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes

New Jersey's Slavko Madzarov Named Macedonian Honorary Consul

By Aleksandar Mitreski

On August 29, 2007, New Jersey resident Slavko Madzarov was named Honorary Consul for the State of New Jersey by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. Over 150 guests, including representatives from the Federal, New Jersey, and local governments, as well as the Macedonian government, attended a ceremony at the Getty Avenue office of Slavko Construction, Inc. in Clifton, New Jersey. Madzarov, who immigrated to the United States in 1987 from Miravci, Macedonia, stood alongside Dr. Zoran Jolevski, Macedonian Ambassador to the United States, to unveil a plaque bearing the seal of the Republic of Macedonia. The plaque will remain affixed to the front of the Getty Avenue building, which houses the new Honorary Consulate for the State of New Jersey.

Ambassador Jolevski expressed gratitude to Madzarov for his "good relations and personal friendship with a great number of local, state and federal rank politicians, like Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., which has helped in many ways in promoting and protecting Macedonian interests in U.S." Congressman Pascrell, who represents the 8th district of New Jersey, thanked Madzarov for his friendship, noting Madzarov's strong love for his homeland and willingness to help his people in any way he can. Mayor James Anzaldi of Clifton presented Madzarov with the Key to the City and proclaimed September 8th as Macedonia Day in Clifton. Madzarov, in his remarks, stated that "the opening of the Honorary Consulate is an honor for the whole Macedonian-American community of New Jersey, which first started immigrating to this great state a century ago. With over 20,000 Macedonian-Americans living in this state, a new chapter has begun, ensuring stronger bonds between us and our homeland."

Guests traveled from throughout the United States and Macedonia to celebrate the occasion, including representatives of both UMD and the Macedonian Human Rights Movement of the United States, and Madzarov's parents, who came from Macedonia.

Madzarov, who has lived in Clifton for over 20 years, established a construction and asbestos demolition company, Slavko Construction, Inc., two years after arriving in the US. In recognition of his business leadership and community service, Madzarov has been awarded and honored by the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, the Polish-American Children's Foundation, 200 Club in Passaic County, the New Jersey Civil Service Association, the Sheriff Jerry Speziale Foundation for Community Service, and the Giblin Foundations' Annual Award.

Madzarov is an avid supporter of various Macedonian organizations including the Macedonian



Orthodox parish communities St. Kiril and Metodij in Cedar Grove, NJ, Nikola in Totowa, NJ, and St. Clement of Ohrid in Queens, New York. Madzarov also sits on the United Macedonian Diaspora Council, an advisory group composed of individuals with backgrounds in business and public service that works to stimulate and support the work of UMD. ✨



Slavko Madzarov with Congressman Pascrell

AMSUT Pursues Big Objectives for 2008

By Nick Misketi, President of AMSUT

The Association of Macedonian Students at the University of Toronto (AMSUT) have set some very ambitious goals for the 2008 year.

AMSUT, formed in 1988, has seen its share of ups and downs over the years. The club was dormant for a short period of time before being resurrected in 2002 and has since been trying to bring together Macedonian students across all three campuses of the University of Toronto.

For 2008, the club has clearly defined its objectives. AMSUT resolves to focus on four priorities – membership, community service, fund-raising, and cultural promotion and expansion. While increasing membership is the top priority the club is also looking forward to reaching out to the Macedonian community.

In previous years the club has done much volunteer work for the Macedonian community in Toronto. Past members have helped out at St. Clement of Ohrid Macedonian Orthodox Church

as well as Canadian Macedonian Place, which is the Macedonian seniors' home in Toronto.

This year, the club hopes to lend a hand not only to other Macedonian organizations but also to organizations in the city that deal with socially responsible causes which are important to the general community. AMSUT believes strongly that it's important to reach out to the community as much as possible and build strong relationships within it.

Also related to this initiative is fund-raising. This year the club looks forward to organizing events that will raise money for various Macedonian organizations. A couple of years ago the club held a pub night in support of the Tsunami relief effort which managed to raise a modest sum for the cause. AMSUT hopes to put on similar events this year where its members can contribute to the Macedonian community and have a good time as well.

Finally, cultural promotion

is an extremely important initiative that the club takes seriously and is working hard to pursue. The belief is that the Macedonian culture needs to be promoted to the multicultural communities of Toronto so that they may both enjoy it and be educated about it.

Currently, the club is working on bringing a performance of the critically acclaimed "Who the Hell Started All of This?" to the University of Toronto. The play is written by Macedonian author and playwright Dejan Dukovski and has been very successful throughout Europe in its ten year run. In August of this year Fallen Angel Theatre presented this performance to a Canadian audience for the first time in city of Toronto. The club hopes to draw attention to this amazing piece of work which showcases some of our most talented Macedonian artists.

AMSUT is committed to all these objectives and is working hard to spread the Macedonian culture, build a stronger community, and unite the Macedonian youth. ✨

Photos: Emil Ivanovski

Visiting the Detroit and Windsor Communities

By UMD Staff

During the weekend of August 24-26, 2007, UMD President and Vice President, Metodija A. Koloski and Aleksandar Mitreski paid a working visit to the Macedonian communities in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and Sterling Heights, Michigan, USA.

On Friday, August 24th, UMD President and Vice President gave a presentation about the organization's mission, structure, and key policy priorities in front of parishioners at the hall of St. Nikola Macedonian Orthodox Church. Very Reverend Dr. Aleksandar Mustenikov and the president of the parish board presided at the meeting, initiated by local Windsor artist Gligor Stefanov. Koloski and Mitreski stressed the necessity for Macedonian-Canadians in Windsor to get more involved in their community and promote their Macedonian

heritage. Following the meeting, both representatives were interviewed by the local Macedonian radio program.

The next two days, both representatives participated at the annual festival organized by St. Mary Macedonian Orthodox Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan. The Macedonian-American community in Michigan is the largest community in the United States. With several thousand in attendance, the festival was very lively and full of great dancing and delicious traditional Macedonian cooking. Koloski and Mitreski provided remarks, in addition, to the speeches made by the president of the parish board, Svetozar Stameski, the Macedonian Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Zoran Jolevski, the Macedonian Consul General, Dragan Jordanovski, and a representative from the Office of Congresswoman Candice Miller

(R-MI). The youth presence at the festival was encouraging. UMD congratulates the community on a job well done. ✨



60 Years On, Macedonians Commemorate The Lost Generation of Child Refugees

By UMD Staff

2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the historical mass exodus of hundreds of thousands of Macedonians from northern Greece, among them 44,000 children between the ages of 2 and 14. These children, without their parents, often without documents, were put on trains and sent to Romania, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union. Macedonians refer to this generation of refugee children the "Deca Begalci." (pronounced "DET-za BEG-al-tzi")

Now well in their late 60s, 70s, and 80s, the Deca Begalci are trying to reclaim their homes and farms in Greece. However, the Greek government refuses to acknowledge their claim or apologize for the injustices committed against them.

At the dawn of the 20th Century, the European Powers were determined to fight back an aggressive Ottoman Sultan from the borders of Austro-Hungary. In 1913, Greece was gifted a large portion of geographic Macedonia at the Treaty of Bucharest. Prior to and since that fateful year, the Greek government, military and corrupt Greek clerics on the government payroll committed gross acts of genocide, ethnic cleaning atrocities, and systemic discrimination against the Macedonian people.

Even to this day, Macedonians who were forced out of Greece during the Greek Civil War have no right to compensation for their private properties, which were confiscated



Aleksandar Mitreski giving remarks at Deca Begalci Banquet

by the Greek government and the Greek Orthodox Church. In a matter of 80 years, a population that a French census verified as being well over 1.5 million has been reduced to roughly 200,000 today. The effect on Aegean Macedonia's ethnic composition was compounded by waves of ethnic Greek refugees fleeing Turkish-held

territories in Asia Minor.

Today, the official line from Athens is that the Hellenic Republic is an "ethnically pure" state, denying evidence to the contrary from the US State Department, Amnesty International, Helsinki Watch and the United Nations.

However, in 1988, the old Greek strategy of not even mentioning the word "Macedonia" was changed, and Greece started renaming its northern province with that name, in hopes of denying it from the ethnic Macedonian people, and completing the planned assimilation. Three years later, the dream of Goce Delcev was realized, and the Republic of Macedonia was born, in 1991. The Greek government has also been waging a war of propaganda against Macedonia ever since.

On May 10, 2008, the Association of the Macedonian Children Refugees based in Toronto held a banquet to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the mass exodus, with proceeds going toward the 4th International Gathering of Deca Begalci this summer. The

gathering will take place from July 12-13 in the Czech Republic, July 18-19 in Macedonia, and July 20 in Orovchani, Greece. The Macedonian Academy of Arts and Sciences will display photographs and books and hold a public symposium regarding the Deca Begalci. ✨



Left to right: Aleksandar Mitreski, Deca Begalci President Risto Cackirovski, and Michael Sarafin



Thomas J. Bitove is the son of John and Dotsa Bitove. He is a leading Toronto businessman and pillar of the community who has supported many charitable causes including Big Brothers, the Canadian Macedonian Place and ProAction Cops and Kids.

UMD: What inspired you to get involved with charity?

Bitove: We grew up in a family where giving back to our communities was the norm. Growing up, our parents were involved in so many causes, many of them Macedonian causes. When each of my brothers, sister and I became involved in charity work, it just seemed natural. We never got involved in charity to get recognized, so to be formally recognized with the highest civilian honor a citizen of Ontario can receive, I was humbled. When the magnitude of the honor sunk in, I was proud beyond description. To be the first Macedonian to receive the honor and for this fact to be noted in the presentation of the citation was the third proudest moment



Interview with Thomas Bitove

By **Meto Koloski**

of my life – the first 2 being the births of my daughters!

UMD: What advice would you give to those who would like to get involved more with charity work?

Bitove: Join a charity that you are passionate about, that way it becomes a labor of love and it will never seem like it is a bother or a chore. Once you join, commit yourself to success - whatever role it is you perform. While fundraising is the lifeblood of many charities, the other volunteer roles are equally important.

UMD: How can Macedonians throughout the world help Macedonia?

Bitove: So many Macedonians are passionate about Macedonia that if we could harness this passion, many issues could be resolved. What we must remember is that in any cause and for that matter in life, there is no perfect world. As long as we are committed to the vision and mission of supporting Macedonia, we should not get bogged down in petty differences that take us away from our ultimate goal.

Macedonia has so much promise - we are surrounded by vibrant economies, we have the tremendous untapped potential in our youth, etc. All we need is the opportunity to show the world how great we are to get to the next level for the citizens of Macedonia.

For Macedonians living outside Macedonia, we need their commitment to spend time and resources to help our fellow Macedonians in Macedonia. When I travel, I am always impressed by how many passionate Macedonians there are outside Macedonia. Many have achieved tremendous success in their adopted homelands but they still feel the passion for Macedonia. That is so reassuring to see and hear.

UMD: What words of encouragement can you give young Macedonians?

Bitove: I saw how proud my grandparents were to be Macedonian, I see how proud my parents are and it makes me proud. I am so very proud to tell people that I am

of Macedonian descent. During a recent trip to Macedonia, returning after 30 years, I was very impressed with the vibrancy of the country. This vibrancy did not exist 30 years ago! Macedonia is on the cusp of something fantastic. The youth of Macedonia are so very fortunate to be there today and to enjoy the fruits of our ancestors.

For those young Macedonians living outside Macedonia, be proud of your adopted countries but consider a trip to Macedonia to give you a better understanding of what you are all about. I was fortunate enough to take one of my daughters with me on my trip last year and she “connected” with Macedonia in a way I never expected. She was emotionally overwhelmed when we visited the ancestral homes of her grandparents in Gabresh and Shestevo, Aegean Macedonia, finally understanding what her ancestors had endured to give her the life she has. As a parent, I couldn’t have been prouder.

UMD: What would you recommend the United Macedonian Diaspora do to help further the Macedonian cause globally?

Bitove: It must start in our global communities. UMD should focus on getting Macedonians focused on our common good, not individual agendas. Successes like Canadian Macedonian Place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada are an example of how we can forward the Macedonian community globally. This project was the first time the entire Macedonian community in Toronto came together for our common good. These types of projects allow us to celebrate our ancestry and ultimately they remind us of our roots. Once we acknowledge and understand our roots, we can then focus on the ultimate goal – furthering the Macedonian cause globally. Ultimately, there is a new need to respect each other and work in a unified manner towards a common goal! Our ancestors suffered great injustices trying to further the common Macedonian cause and identity. We must remember that every effort we put forth should be focused on advancing the Macedonian cause, not individual agendas. ✿

Photos: Emil Ivanovski

Macedonian-Americans of Illinois, Indiana Meet With UMD, Give Generously to Charity

By Emil Ivanovski

In December 2007, UMD Culture Awareness Director Marina Veljanovska enjoyed a short tour of Illinois and Indiana at the invitation of local Macedonian-American community groups. It was an opportunity for Veljanovska to introduce UMD's work in Washington, DC, while learning more about how grassroots organizations in Chicago and Crown Point are making a difference at the local level.

After a morning interview on Radio Biser in Chicago - Veljanovska visited Sts. Peter & Paul Macedonian Orthodox Church for the 2007 Women's Christmas Party. Her presentation about UMD was warmly received, and a fundraiser followed it for the "Detsko Selo" Project. The next day, UMD joined Sts. Kiril & Metodij Macedonian Orthodox Church in Hinsdale, Illinois for the "Hats Off to Women" Fashion Show, designed to bring the community together, promote fellowship with other Macedonians, and raise money for the church.

UMD is especially grateful to both communities for generous donations to the Detsko Selo Project. Veljanovska was pleased with the support noting, "Children at orphanages in Macedonia are in need of our help, and thanks to the support of the community in Indiana and Illinois, the children at the Detsko Selo orphanages will have a big smile on their faces for Christmas." ❄️



Somerset Hills YMCA Reaches Across the Globe

By UMD Staff

Plans to extend its mission beyond the Somerset Hills and forge an international partnership with a YMCA in the Balkan region began in the summer of 2006 when leaders from the Somerset Hills YMCA took part in a trip to the Balkan region to meet with staff, members and young volunteers of fledgling YMCAs in Bulgaria, Macedonia and northern Greece. A year later, the Somerset Hills YMCA signed an agreement with the YCS YMCA in Skopje, Macedonia and is now fully entrenched in the process of establishing a mutually enriching collaboration between the two organizations.

The official agreement between the Somerset Hills YMCA and the YCS YMCA in Skopje was signed in the summer of 2007, marking the official beginning of a symbiotic partnership between the organizations. The relationship will provide opportunities for cultural exchange, shared best practices and a broader worldview for all participants.

The relationship began following an initial trip in 2006 when Lauren Luik, then Chair of the Board of Directors, and Carolyn Vasquez, Family Services Director for the Somerset Hills YMCA, traveled with a delegation of US-based YMCA representatives to participate in an International Leadership Institute run by Y-USA in conjunction with the Balkan Strategic Alliance Group. Their trip was highlighted by meetings with key leaders of YMCAs who are playing a crucial role in education, youth development, and community engagement as the region emerges from communism.

At the time, Lauren commented that, "These promising, but in some cases, struggling, YMCAs in the Balkan region are filling an essential need in their society, teaching young people leadership skills to help move new



Photos courtesy of: YMCA

democracies forward," said Luik. "It is truly remarkable to see the innovative things they are doing, despite having limited resources and facing many economic and cultural obstacles."

"The Y in Skopje particularly impressed us in the way that it is mobilizing and inspiring young people in the community and providing vital, basic human services. I think we have a great deal to offer each other," Luik added.

It is this ongoing, mutually beneficial exchange of ideas that sets this international outreach program apart from others. By partnering with the YMCA in Macedonia, the well-established Somerset Hills YMCA will be able to provide strategic counsel and support to this young, growing organization, but will also learn a great deal.

"The Skopje YMCA has expertise in successfully integrating ethnically diverse people, as well as in youth leadership development," said Vasquez. "As our organization expands and looks to offer more programs and services to the varied populations of the Somerset Hills, we will be able to look to our colleagues in Skopje, and learn from the success that they have had."

For example, this past summer five teen volunteers, accompanied by Y staff and adult volunteer chaperones, attended

the Balkan Youth Festival in Ohrid, Macedonia. The impact that it made on each of their lives was life-changing and helped to expand their perspective with regard to the international community. The teens participated in a variety of team building activities that helped them learn about each other and the cultures of their new friends.

"As an organization dedicated to building strong kids, strong families, and strong communities, it is important that we look beyond our borders to assist people around the world," said Bob Lomauro, President/CEO of the Somerset Hills YMCA. "Our partnership with the Skopje YMCA will enable us to promote dialogue, awareness and advocacy on critical issues that affect YMCAs, youth, families and communities and help us to develop globally minded citizens with a mutual respect for other cultures."

To learn more about the Somerset Hills YMCA's community outreach and international initiatives, as well as the partnership with the YCS YMCA in Skopje, visit the Somerset Hills YMCA online at www.somersethillsymca.org.

Editor's Note: UMD has met representatives from both the Somerset Hills and Skopje YMCA's and fully supports such great initiatives. In the coming months, UMD plans to work with both YMCA's to advance the mission of this program. ⚙

Macedonian in New York Honored in Skopje

By Sheila Krstevski

George Tomov Biography published in Macedonian, English

George Tomov's life as a teacher of Macedonian culture has been documented in a 320-page volume released in the spring of 2007 in Skopje. Tomov has been an active member of the Macedonian Diaspora since his arrival in the United States more than 40 years ago and is known by many as an ambassador of Macedonian culture. The book, published in both Macedonian and English, is rich with photographs and text describing Tomov's life as a member of the Yugoslav folklore ensemble Lado and Macedonian ensemble Tanec, and for the famous Tomov Folk Dance Ensemble, which instructed Americans in Macedonian folklore for 35 years in New York.

Tomov – born in Strumica – studied in Skopje where he earned degrees in sculpture and architecture. His career in folklore began with the Zagreb-based folklore ensemble Lado and Skopje-based Tanec for whom he was a showcased performer. He moved to the United States in 1967, where he earned notoriety among American folklore enthusiasts by teaching college and community-organized dance workshops. Before long dancers all over the United States sought the instruction of George Tomov.

In 1974, a dream Tomov had described since leaving Macedonia came true: his Tomov Folk Dance Ensemble was founded in New York City! The ensemble was composed of 40 professional singers and dancers – primarily Americans enamored with Yugoslav folkdance – who, under Tomov's tutelage, performed songs and dances from different regions of Yugoslavia in authentic regional costumes. It was a glorious success! In 1979 and 1981, the Ensemble was invited by the Yugoslav government to tour the country where they also participated in Bitola's Ilindenski Denovi celebration. In 1980, they performed at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid. Though in 2000, at the age of 67 Tomov finally retired the ensemble after 35 successful years, he continues to teach Macedonian youth in the New Jersey Diaspora as co-director of the Goce Delcev Macedonian Folkdance Ensemble, a Macedonian amateur dance group. He is also the Director of the annual European Folk Festival – which for 35 years has featured diverse folk-dance groups including but not limited to Macedonian, Greek, Serbian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, and Norwegian – and is sponsored by the Slavic Heritage Council of America.

In 2003, hundreds of people, both Macedonian and American, including former members of the Tomov Ensemble filled the main hall of New Jersey's Sts. Kiril and Metodij Macedonian Cultural Center in celebration of



Tomov's 70th birthday. His friends, both Macedonian and American, performed Macedonian music and the crowd danced the night away.

In 2005, Tomov received the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor. This medal is awarded to immigrants or their descendants who arrived in the USA via the Port of New York or Ellis Island for outstanding contribution to their own ethnic group and to American Society.

Tomov was warmly welcomed in Skopje where, when he returned for the book's release, Fokus Magazine praised him as a "living legend of Macedonian folklore." Following his trip, the Brooklyn Heights International Folk Dancers honored him in New York with a celebratory dinner in his honor. On December 8, 2007, the biography was launched in New Jersey. Guests included Congressman Bill Pascrell, former Ambassador and Mrs. Jordan Plevnes, and Macedonia's Honorary Consul for New Jersey, Slavko Madzarov. ❄

UMD Holds Grassroots Event in Cedar Grove, New Jersey

Photos: Alexander Krstevski

By UMD Staff

On November 18, 2007, UMD Founders Boban Jovanovski, Meto Koloski, Denis Manevski, Aleksandar Mitreski, and Marina Veljanovska traveled to Cedar Grove, New Jersey to hold a presentation about UMD's global agenda at the Macedonian Cultural Center adjacent to Sts. Kiril and Metodij Macedonian Orthodox Church. Over 200 Macedonian-Americans attended and had the opportunity to exchange ideas and comment on the work of UMD during the last 4 years.

The meeting was opened by the host organizer Macedonian Human Rights Movement of the United States President Dragan Slavkovski and Sts. Kiril and Metodij Macedonian Orthodox Church Board President

Nikola Milevski. The parish priest Father Slobodan Petkovski also gave remarks. Meto Koloski introduced the role of the organization and its history, followed by a presentation by Boban Jovanovski regarding UMD's Macedonia in NATO 2008 and Macedonia in EU 2012 campaigns. Marina Veljanovska discussed the organization's charitable and cultural activities, specifically our annual Christmas drive for less fortunate children and orphans in Macedonia. Aleksandar Mitreski informed the audience on our activities regarding name recognition and the current human rights situation of Macedonians living in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Serbia. Last but not least, Denis Manevski briefed those present on UMD's budget, fundraising

goals, and plans to open an office in Washington, D.C. and hire a full-time professional staff.

The presentation was well-received and provided for a thought-provoking discussion, which lasted two hours. UMD was praised for its efforts addressing the interests and needs of Macedonians, particularly for the fact that it is an all-volunteer organization that in 4 years has managed to become the largest and strongest Macedonian organization in the Diaspora.

Plans are in store to hold such presentations in other Macedonian communities throughout the world. Stay tuned... ❄



Gorsevski to Bring Geological Expertise to Macedonia as Fulbright Scholar

*Published in the Bowling Green State University Monitor on January 7, 2008
(Reprinted with permission)*

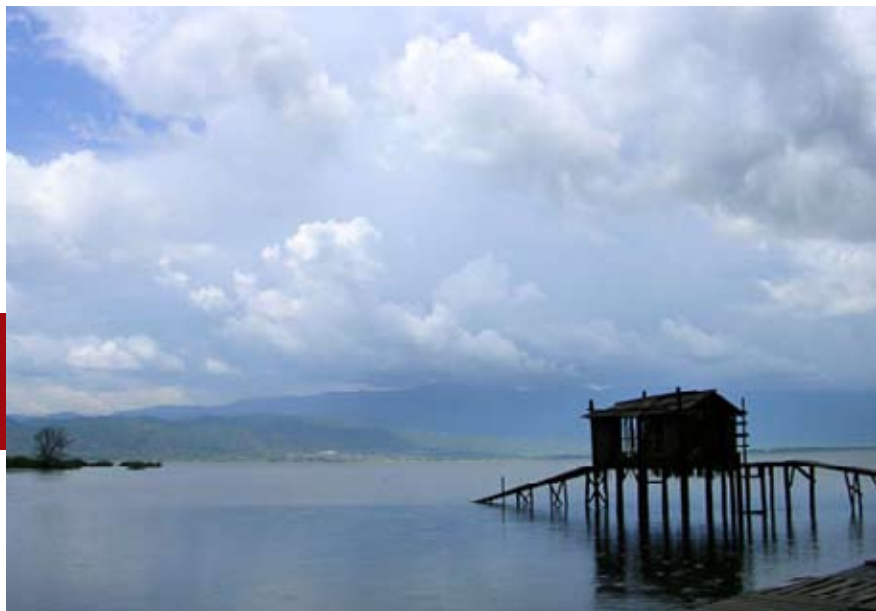
Bordered by Greece and Bulgaria, Macedonia isn't foreign to Dr. Peter Gorsevski. He is a native of the country and in 1992 received his bachelor's degree in forestry at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University there. He received his master's degree in forest engineering from Oregon State University in 1996 and his doctorate from the University of Idaho in 2002.

A specialist in geospatial sciences, Dr. Gorsevski uses satellite technology and other data to interpret natural processes. The information can help humans "hopefully interact and manage things like forests, water resources and other natural resources in both an economically and environmentally sustainable way," he said.

He said he wanted to return to Macedonia because he knows the language and has "expertise in precisely the data and land-management strategies that a developing nation like Macedonia can really benefit from."

"I like to work on research that will help Macedonia adapt to its transition toward a market economy, with all the related challenges that brings for Macedonia's rich natural environment."

He plans on sharing his findings with other researchers and faculty, as well as with students and the Macedonian government.



"I'd like to develop a strong network of researchers and others who are interested in bringing Macedonia into the 21st century in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner," he said.

Dr. Gorsevski said he was drawn to BGSU by the new School of Earth, Environment and Society.

"Its diversity of faculty, cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and bright student body really impressed me when I came here to interview," he said.

He is still a new face on campus, having joined the BGSU community just this academic year. For that reason, Dr. Charles Onasch, geology and director of the school, was surprised that Peter won the competitive award.

"It's a tremendous honor and a very competitive fellowship, and he got it relatively early in his career," Onasch said.

Dr. Gorsevski was also surprised. "This is truly an honor for me. When I was working on the grant, I knew the odds were small because the competition is so great. I will endeavor to do the best research and teaching work I can, to live up to the Fulbright standard."

Even with the prestigious award, he doesn't forget his students, who are one of his two favorite parts of the job.

"It's hard to choose what I like better: working with students or working with data," Dr. Gorsevski said. "Either way, each kind of work helps inform the other and keeps me productive."

Luckily, Dr. Gorsevski won't have to choose between students and data this spring; he will incorporate both teaching and research into his experience.

His research interests include GIScience and remote sensing, grid modeling, multicriteria decision analysis, and terrain and watershed analysis. ✿



Photos: Emil Ivanovski

Left to right: Denis Manevski, Marina Veljanovska, Aleksandar Mitreski, and Meto Koloski

33rd Annual Convention Draws Macedonians to Cincinnati; UMD Offers Forum for an Exchange of Ideas

By Aleksandar Mitreski

In the largest gathering of the North American Diaspora, Macedonians from across the continent flooded the halls of the Millennium Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio for the 33rd annual American-Canadian Macedonian Orthodox Diocese Convention on September 1, 2007. The event, known to Macedonians simply as "the Convention," has become a ritual celebration of culture and identity for thousands in the North American Diaspora.

During the Convention, United Macedonian Diaspora's leadership hosted an informational meeting where they spoke about issues currently facing Macedonians and how UMD is working to address them in Washington D.C. and around the world. Among the speakers were UMD President,

Vice President, Treasurer and Director of Cultural Awareness, Metodija A. Koloski, Aleksandar Mitreski, Denis Manevski, and Marina Veljanovska. Several prominent Macedonians attended, including businessman George Atanasoski, and Slavko Mangovski, former Editor-in-Chief of the international weekly Makedonsko Sonce.

Following presentations by representatives of UMD, American-born Macedonian Minister for Foreign Direct Investment, Gligor Tashkovich discussed investment opportunities in Macedonia, and ways that UMD's members can help increase awareness about Macedonia's investment potential and climate.

Attendees then had a unique opportunity

for intimate discussion on the direction of Macedonian causes. UMD Treasurer, Denis Manevski praised the participants, calling the forum "a great opportunity to meet young aspiring Macedonians," and saying that "through the ongoing and open exchange of ideas, new relationships can be forged and a stronger, more united Macedonian Diaspora is being built."

UMD representatives later met privately His Grace, Metropolitan Metodij of the American-Canadian Macedonian Orthodox Diocese to discuss UMD's mission and the potential for future cooperation.

Stay tuned to our website for information about our activities during future conventions. ✨





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MACEDONIAN
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United Macedonian Diaspora ("UMD") is a global non-governmental and non-for-profit organization addressing the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities throughout the world. UMD is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

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 and continue to advocate the Macedonian cause. We sincerely thank you for your generosity.

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

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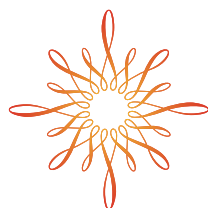
You can also visit our website at www.umdiaspora.org to become a member, or mail this completed form with check or money order made payable to 'United Macedonian Diaspora' to:

**United Macedonian Diaspora
1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20004**

Please direct all questions to info@umdiaspora.org or (202) 756-2244

*The United Macedonian Diaspora is grateful for all the help Delo Logic Arts has provided with design and layout of our new publication **UMD Voice** magazine.*

Delo Logic Arts is proud to assist in the efforts of the United Macedonian Diaspora - an organization uniting Macedonians worldwide - and looks forward to continued collaboration. Delo Logic Arts expresses best wishes and success in the important work of UMD.



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