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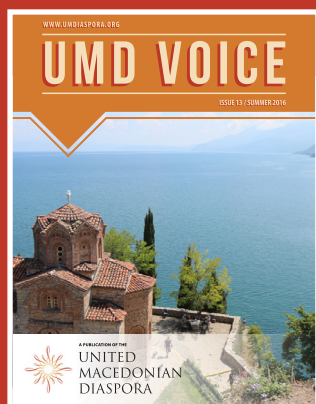
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Design by Nicholas DeMichele

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LETTER TO THE READERS

from the



UNITED
MACEDONIAN
DIASPORA

Dear readers,

We are so excited to publish the summer issue of UMD Voice!

In this issue, you will discover our efforts in discussions to reduce tensions in the Balkan region in response to the ongoing migrant crisis. In addition, you will get an inside scoop on this year's Macedonian-American Leadership Conference and the topics discussed in briefings at the U.S Congress and White House, which highlight the benefits of educational advocacy and engagement.

We are also delighted to revive UMD Voice magazine to showcase the versatility of young professionals and the contributions they continue to make in several public sectors worldwide. It is important that we continue to produce this magazine, which can serve as a guide for the younger generations to gain insight on how they too, can become future leaders in our community.

Humbled by the generosity of donations that fund our organization and activities, we constantly look for ways to improve our outreach. Volunteers complete much of the work we do and we encourage you to get involved at UMD. Our volunteer efforts span from participating in our Fellowship program to working on future drafts of the very magazine you are about to read.

Joining us to work on UMD Voice would provide for a wider scope of topics for our readers to enjoy. All writers and journalistic hopefuls are encouraged to join our publication team, as we hope to continue publishing this magazine and add to the professional work experiences of our volunteers.

A very special thank you goes to our summer fellow Nicholas DeMichele for his fantastic design skills in putting this issue together, our fellows Christina Allston, Gavin Kopel, Shannon McKelvie, George Myers, Mama Sow, and Alexis Zickafoose for helping with content, and our Editor Dr. Natasha Garrett.

Since this magazine is published on your behalf, we would very much value hearing your feedback and encourage you to provide us with questions and comments. We hope you find the featured stories and articles both entertaining and inspiring. Thank you and enjoy!



S. NIKOLOV

Stojan Nikolov
UMD Chairman



Metodija A. Koloski

Metodija A. Koloski
UMD President



#MALC2016

MACEDONIAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The 3rd Macedonian-American Leadership Conference (MALC2016) was held in Washington, D.C., from June 9 to 11 and brought together Macedonian-American leaders from throughout the United States and Canada. The event, promoted and known as #MALC2016, was organized and hosted by the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) and its next generation program for young leaders, Generation M. The conference featured leaders from various Macedonian cultural, business, and faith based

organizations attending from California, D.C., Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and Ontario, Canada.

A digital copy of the #MALC2016 Program Book designed by UMD Fellow Nicholas DeMichele, as well as photos, videos, and interviews from the entire conference, can be downloaded from our website.

MALC2016 kicked off on June 9 with an opening reception at the Embassy

of Macedonia in honor of His Excellency Dr. Vasko Naumovski, Ambassador of Macedonia to the United States of America. Ambassador Naumovski addressed attendees, expressing his gratitude for the important relationship the Embassy has with UMD and Generation M, as well as the success of the Macedonian-American community in Washington, D.C., and throughout the U.S.

Friday, June 10 was the focal point of the weekend. MALC's Advocacy day began with a breakfast briefing to the



Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans in the House Administration Committee Hearing Room of the Longworth House Office Building. Congressional Staffers George Hadijski of the House Administration Committee, Robert Hand of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, Jeff Orzechowski from the Office of Congresswoman Candice Miller (R-MI), and Dylan Sodaro from the Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) outlined each of their personal journeys into congressional affairs and discussed the importance of mobilizing the younger generation.

Following breakfast, MALC2016 participants met with representatives from both the Republican National Committee and the Democratic National Committee. While discussing the current American presidential election, conference attendees considered the ramifications of election results for the Macedonian-American community and, more broadly, how the election could affect foreign policy and U.S. relations with Balkan states. Representatives from the two parties also discussed how Macedonian-American leaders can engage their own communities and involve them in the political process in their own states.

The day continued with tours of the White House and the Library of Congress, in which Macedonian texts and manuscripts were highlighted from the extensive library collection.

After the tours, participants arrived at the UMD office for lunch. Mark Moyar, a Senior Fellow at the Foreign

Policy Initiative, spoke on the foreign policy priorities and objectives of the next executive administration, discussing the potential agendas of both a Clinton and Trump presidency. Moyar also fielded questions from MALC2016 attendees on subjects including NATO enlargement and the current Macedonian political crisis.



#MALC2016 attendees participate in Congressional briefing.

Lunch was followed by a briefing from White House and State Department officials in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building which centered on domestic Macedonian politics as well as a general update on Macedonia's place in the international political theatre. Hosted by Asher Mayerson from the Office of Public Engagement, the briefing occurred in three sections: foreign policy, immigration, and President Obama's Supreme Court nomination of Merrick Garland.

The foreign policy briefing included a panel of the following individuals: Victoria Taylor, Director for Balkans,

Black Sea, and Caucasus Affairs of the National Security Council, Ian Campbell, Deputy Director of the Office of South Central European Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, and Carina Canaan, Desk Officer for Macedonian and Montenegro, Office of South Central European Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. The

immigration briefing was held by Ginette Magaña, Associate Director of the Office of Public Engagement, while the final portion of the briefing about Garland's nomination was put on by John Bisognano, Associate Director of the Office of Public Engagement.

Friday concluded with a Generation M Board Meeting held at the UMD office. American and Canadian board members discussed international strategy and ongoing initiatives to further both the mission of UMD and youth outreach. With the conclusion of a successful board meeting, a reception was held for attendees that featured traditional Macedonian



cuisine, wine from Macedonia, and dancing. Keenan Toohey from Welcome.us spoke during the reception about Immigrant Heritage Month, the IAmAnImmigrant.com campaign, and how Macedonian-Americans can get involved to showcase their own Macedonian immigrant heritage stories.

Saturday, June 11 was organized



Ajla Delkic presents on the role of diasporas.

around a full schedule of panelists and forums, as well as question and answer periods on a variety of relevant topics.

Video greeting messages were played by U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia, Jess L. Baily, and Macedonia's Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Vasko Naumovski. Visit us online for video messages from Ambassador Baily and Ambassador Naumovski.

United Macedonian Diaspora President, Metodija A. Koloski, Director of U.S. Operations, Trajko Papuckoski, and Director of Policy and Strategy, Zhikica Pagovski, provided opening remarks and discussed the success and future plans of UMD. Koloski specifically discussed the importance of UMD's scholarship program, the Bitove Scholarship, Birthright Macedonia, and UMD's outreach to the younger generation.

Elaborating on UMD's new youth

initiative, leaders in Generation M continued the presentations. Mario Hristovski, Generation M's Chairman of U.S. Operations and President of MASO at Ohio State University, Filip Jotevski, Global Chair of Generation M, and Kristina Dimitrievski, Chair of Canadian Operations for Generation M, discussed how young Macedonians can become politically and culturally engaged in their communities, specifically underlining why this is a crucial time for the youth of Macedonia, and of the greater global Macedonian diaspora.

To illustrate the success of youth involvement, Generation M highlighted past and current members' experience with UMD internships, committee meetings across the U.S. and Canada, as well as the Birthright Macedonia program, UMD's unique cultural engagement program aimed at providing members with the opportunity to develop an understanding of Macedonian history, culture, and language.



Maria Di Biaggio reacts to a presenter during #MALC2016.

Following up on the importance of preserving Macedonian culture and language, Dr. Biljana Belamaric Wilsey presented her online e-learning center, which provides interactive multimedia resources for learning, practicing, and teaching the Macedonian language. Dr. Belamaric Wilsey's training and background have helped to build great resources including interactive multimedia tutorials, language learning games, audiocasts, texts about Macedonian culture, including customs, folklore, and children's rhymes and games, as well as children's books, available as paperbacks and digitally for the iPad. Most importantly, Dr. Belamaric Wilsey



Jessica Bowser presents on networking.

showed how diaspora members can incorporate learning Macedonian in their everyday lives. Please learn more and visit the website of the Macedonian Language E-Learning Center and improve your Macedonian skills.

Mishko Josifov continued a day of great presentations. Citing Tom Rath and Barry Conchies' book *Strengths-Based Leadership: Great Leaders, Teams, and Why People Follow*, Josifov highlighted the importance of a leader's understanding and development of their own specific and diverse strengths. Josifov concluded his presentation by generously offering to mail Rath and Conchies' book to the first two audience members to email him.

Extending the idea of professional development, Igor Dabik, Jessica Bowser, and John McCarthy, moderated by Zhikica Pagovski, spoke on networking, joking one should never eat alone, because effective networking

is centered on building relationships. The panelists stressed the importance of a genuine approach in making connections with people.

Once again, attendees enjoyed authentic Macedonian food while UMD President Koloski, UMD Director of Policy and Strategy Zhikica Pagovski, and Zlata Unerkova from the Europe and Eurasia Department of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative provided vital insight into the current political crisis in Macedonia, citing the importance of including the diaspora and civil society to create a Macedonian-led resolution.

Continuing on the theme of diaspora leadership, the Executive Director of the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ajla Delkic, Senior Officer at the Calvert Foundation, Leigh Moran, and the Assistant Regional Director for AJC Washington, Susan Sloan, discussed the role of diasporas

in helping the homeland. Delkic, Moran, and Sloan encouraged members to learn about their heritage and seek political involvement in both their perspective countries.

Next, Steve Anevski and Maria DiBiaggio narrated the successes and struggles of starting their own business. Anevski has recently start collaborating with the Skopje-based IT company Kinetiq, and DiBiaggio runs an athletic sports clothing company with operations in New York City and in Skopje and Kriva Palanka, in Macedonia. As recipients of UMD's 40 Under 40 list, Anevski and DiBiaggio are leaders in their respective fields and serve as effective role models for Generation M and other youth of the Macedonian diaspora. UMD 40 under 40 recipient David Turkaleski moderated the panel. To learn more about Anevski and DiBiaggio, visit us online.

The conference closed with Ana



Steve Anevski presents on entrepreneurship.



Ana Dukoska (left) and Filip Jotevski (right) present at the UMD Washington Headquarters during #MALC2016.

Dukoska, UMD New Jersey Regional Representative, and Gordana Mirkoska, UMD Washington, D.C. Regional Representative showing audience members what steps they can take individually and what contributions they can give collectively to the diaspora in light of everything they have learned while attending MALC2016. UMD Generation M Global Chairman Filip Jotevski moderated this panel and highlight once again the importance of programs like Birthright Macedonia.

Considering the success of events like MALC2016, supporters and attendees were encouraged by Director of U.S. Operations Trajko Papuckoski to donate to UMD and become full members to continue attending such events and expand the efforts of programs such as Generation M. As with every non-profit, every donation to UMD helps deliver services to the Macedonian-American community. Finally, as was the theme of many



UMD Fellow Veronika Tomova with Ivan Stojanovski.

presentations, members were encouraged to also donate their time and skills as volunteers. It is not only a great way to develop professionally in the community, but also provides tremendous help to UMD and Generation M

To find out more about the United Macedonian Diaspora, visit us online

at www.UMDiaspora.org. For Generation M, visit www.UMDGenM.org. For updates on UMD and Gen M events like #MALC2016 and news relevant to the diaspora, follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @UMDiaspora and @GenerationM.



THE GOLD STANDARD OF WATER

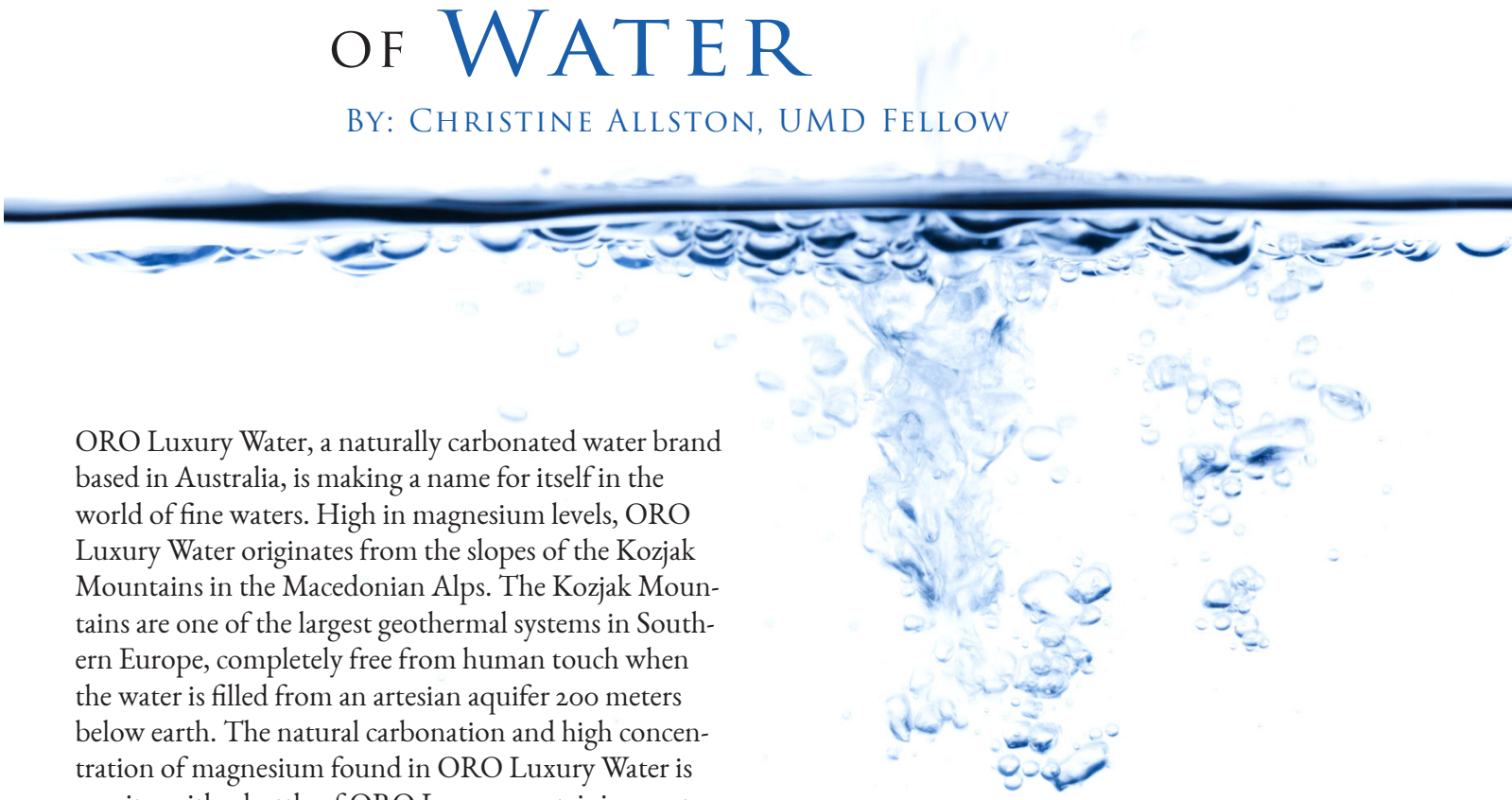
BY: CHRISTINE ALLSTON, UMD FELLOW

ORO Luxury Water, a naturally carbonated water brand based in Australia, is making a name for itself in the world of fine waters. High in magnesium levels, ORO Luxury Water originates from the slopes of the Kozjak Mountains in the Macedonian Alps. The Kozjak Mountains are one of the largest geothermal systems in Southern Europe, completely free from human touch when the water is filled from an artesian aquifer 200 meters below earth. The natural carbonation and high concentration of magnesium found in ORO Luxury Water is a rarity, with a bottle of ORO Luxury containing up to 340 mg/l of magnesium. Magnesium is the single most important mineral in your daily intake and helps to relieve stress, cramps, anxiety, and digestion. Along with the health benefits, the taste of ORO is like no other. The light mouth feel with crisp and smooth tasting notes allows it to be paired with cheeses, meats, desserts, and fine wines.

In June 2016, the “champagne of waters” was awarded Gold in the Naturally Carbonated Category at the First International Fine Water Tasting Competition in Guangzhou, China. This category is largely unknown due to many being unaware that there are waters with naturally occurring carbonation. Such waters arise from springwaters and artesian wells with a rocky underground. Those judging the waters included water sommeliers and connoisseurs from Argentina, Australia, Austria, China, Germany, South Korea, and the United States. This accolade is exceptionally prestigious for ORO Luxury Water due to the fact that brand was recently launched in 2015 by Izaac and Megan Trpeski.

Husband and wife team, Izaac and Megan Trpeski, combined their skills of advertising and sales to create the brand of ORO Luxury Water when they noticed a lack in fine, naturally carbonated water on the market. Named after the Spanish and Latin word for gold, ORO Luxury Water represents the simplicity, purity, and rarity of their water. The name also represents Izaac Trpeski’s Macedonian heritage with the term “oro” meaning dancing in a circular formation.

The early success of ORO Luxury Water represents the richness of Macedonia’s natural resources and the ambition of those of Macedonian heritage. As of now, ORO Luxury Water is only available in Australia, however the Trpeskis aim to open up to the European market in due time. The natural carbonation combined with high levels of magnesium make ORO Luxury Water one of the finest waters to be paired with.



MIGRANTS IN MACEDONIA

MANUEVEING THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

BY: MAMA SOW, UMD FELLOW

The ongoing political turmoil and crisis in Syria and throughout the Middle East has sent over a million migrants and refugees seeking haven in Europe to travel through the Republic of Macedonia as part of the “Balkan Route.” Providing aid to these refugees has been no easy feat for Macedonia, a country which is facing its own set of economic and political burdens outside of the EU. Here in the United States, UMD has led multinational discussions of the migrant crisis in a diplomatic call for humanitarian aid from the U.S government and international organizations.



Migrants pass the border between Macedonia and Greece, near the town of Gevgelija, Sept. 2. The Gevgelija-Presevo journey is just a part of the journey that the refugees, the vast majority of them from Syria, are forced to make along the so-called Balkan corridor, which takes them from Turkey, across Greece, Macedonia and Serbia to Hungary, the gateway to the European Union. (Valdrin Xhemaj/EPA)

THE BALKAN ROUTE





UMD, in partnership with the Southeast Europe Coalition and the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACBH), held a series of panel discussions with European leaders on the topic of “The Refugee Crisis: It’s Impact on the U.S, Europe, and our Collective Strength and Security.” The two day panel was held on April 12 and 13, 2016, in the U.S. Capitol Building and at the Washington Post headquarters. The Congressional briefing included remarks from Hungarian Ambassador to the U.S. H.E. Dr. Reka Szemerkenyi, Macedonian Ambassador H.E. Dr. Vasko Naumovski, Deputy Chief of Mission from the Austrian Embassy Minister Christian Brunmayr, Dr. Frances Trix, professor at Indiana University and expert on Muslim communities in Europe, and President of Refugees International Michel Gabaudan.

The need to acknowledge the diversity of migrants and refugees fleeing the crisis was discussed by participants, as was the need to address the root causes of the conflict, in hopes that the displaced peoples can return to their homes in the future. Additionally, security concerns for European citizens were prevalent in all discussions, focusing on illegal border crossings, threats from terror groups to place operatives into refugee groups, and rising tensions at borders.

As a collective international effort to reduce bottlenecks at closed borders fell short, Turkey’s brokered March deal with the EU spurred clashes between border police and refugees who attempted to force their way through the Macedonian-Greek bor-



ABOVE: Ambassador Naumovski delivers remarks at a Congressional briefing concerning Syrian refugees in the Southeastern regions of Europe, as well as their greater impact across the continent.

BELOW: UMD President Metodija A. Koloski (second from right) and Executive Director of ACBH Ajla Delkic (far right) present on collective European security in face of the refugee crisis.



der. The confrontation led to hundreds of injured refugees and several injured border security officials. The panel discussed ways to help ease the strains of the crisis in the most inclusive way possible given the urgent need to offer assistance to the masses fleeing war and violence and the need to ease the burden of overwhelmed border security forces.

Croatian Ambassador to the U.S. Joško Paro discussed the shift in population demographics paired with a change in the European way of life that represents the first existential crisis of the EU, urging solidarity in Europe in order to overcome the crisis. He stressed that this shift crosses the Atlantic and is also an American

problem.

Hungarian Ambassador to the U.S. Réka Szemerkenyi described the crisis as an issue that will define the years to come, bringing weighty consequences if discussions and cooperation among world leaders do not continue. Given the current security and policy challenges foreign leaders face in addition to human tragedies, the Ambassador urges her counterparts to “accept the complexity of the situation.” Amid the increasing number of border closures and xenophobic rhetoric in American and European media after the November 2015 terror attacks in Paris (and subsequent attacks), the panel also stressed the need for a presentation of truth in order to

spearhead better solutions for current tensions.

On February 24, Ambassador Naumovski met with American Jewish Committee (AJC) Director of Government and International Affairs Jason Isaacson at a joint UMD-AJC event. Naumovski mentioned that of the 800,000 people that passed through Macedonia in the past year, only 80 have applied for asylum, dispelling the notion that an overflow of migrants seek to remain in the Balkan region. The Ambassador also discussed the importance of the need for integration of migrants and refugees in countries where they seek asylum, for the sake of discontinuing the radicalization of disenfranchised immigrant communities in Europe.

After many state legislatures in the U.S. ceased to support taking in refugee applicants following the Paris attacks, UMD made the case for what refugees can contribute to the U.S. rather than the threat some believe they pose to American citizens. Considering Macedonia's non-member status in the EU, UMD has also focused on the need for increased economic assistance given the growing cost needed for food, shelter, and medicine for migrants and refugees that strains the already burdened economy.

In December 2015, UMD President, Metodija A. Koloski, and UMD International Policy and Diplomacy Fellow, Gavin Kopel, attended a White House roundtable discussion on the Syrian refugee crisis, highlighting the positives of immigration. Koloski noted how the United States was built on the backbones of refugees and those who left their homes for better opportunities, while revitalizing cities throughout the United States, sparking economic development. UMD's remarks included suggestions for the Department of Homeland Security to increase assistance to Macedonia, Serbia, Greece, and Turkey in order to improve the process of incoming refugees.

In October, before the U.S. Helsinki Commission Hearing "Europe's Refugee Crisis: How Should the U.S., EU, and OSCE Respond?," Koloski and Kopel presented Macedonia's aid efforts and requested increased foreign aid from the U.S. to continue said efforts. Furthermore, UMD urged the U.S. to use its diplomatic resources to bring a solution to Macedonia's NATO membership in order for the country to have a voice in the organization while

tackling this crisis head-on. Today, UMD continues to encourage members of Congress to support House Resolution 56- "Affirming the support of the United States for Macedonia's ascension to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)."

In addition, Koloski presented "The American Case for Macedonia" at a World Affairs Council of Greater Reading luncheon, providing data on the scores of migrants passing through Macedonia and its effects on the infrastructure of its southern regions. Among the figures at the time, 140,000 to 200,000 migrants, flowed through the state in a four-month period. With Greece poised to receive more than 474 million euros and Serbia expected to receive more than 8.2 million euros through 2020, Macedonia has only received 90,656 euros from the EU. Koloski stressed that the responsibility of the crisis must be shared in order to reach a more adequate solution on how to care for the influx of people.

With regards to Macedonia serving as a passage for migrants and refugees en route to countries in Northern Europe, keeping Macedonia equipped to handle such an influx would help other nations prevent potentially disorganized responses to the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Finally, increased economic support to Macedonia would provide adequate necessities for those in refugee camps to care for newborns, children, and ongoing and emerging health issues caused by lack of sufficient medicine and nutrition.

As a non-governmental organization serving the Macedonian-American community, UMD is dedicated to acknowledging the 11 million people displaced by the conflict in Syria as well as the thousands of economic migrants unable live and thrive in their home countries. UMD strongly believes that collaboration between the U.S. and Europe through intelligence sharing, active discussion, and increased humanitarian and economic aid are integral to reducing tensions and borders, while creating safe passage for migrants and refugees.

CELEBRATE
IMMIGRANT
HERITAGE
MONTH
06•2016

CITIZENS IN PROFILE

In June, we celebrated Immigrant Heritage Month. We celebrated the uniquely American tradition of immigration and the contributions that immigrants continue to bring to the fabric of American society.

On June 13, 2016, UMD partnered with Welcome.us, as well as a variety of other cultural and ethnic organizations, to host a Congressional reception in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Building. There, members of Congress spoke with American immigrants and their families from around the world, sharing their experiences and celebrating our heritages together.

UMD is proud to celebrate immigrants and their stories every day. Members of our diasporas represent a variety of experiences and their stories reflect the diversity that is found in America today - the diversity we celebrate during Immigrant Heritage Month. Read on for a selection of Macedonian-American profiles.



Ambassador Ljubica Z. Acevska sits on the UMD Advisory Council. Ambassador Acevska served as the Republic of Macedonia's Ambassador to the United States between 1991-2000. During her time representing the Republic of Macedonia, she successfully established bilateral relations between Macedonia and the United States, and advocated for the U.S. to send troops as U.N. peacekeepers to Macedonia's northern border in the early 90s. She also

oversaw Macedonia's membership in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and served as a Macedonian Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. After her service as Ambassador, Ljubica Acevska went on to become a Public Policy Scholar at the prestigious Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. From 2005-2008, she was a co-host of the DC-TV talk show "Conversations," focusing on international issues. In addition to her current public speaking engagements and international business development consulting work, Ambassador Acevska is Co-Founder and President of Pencils 4 Kids International, an organization that provides much-needed school supplies to children worldwide. Ambassador Acevska has served on numerous Boards, and was a founding partner of Gulf Enterprises, which deals in international trade, consulting and development in the Arabian Gulf, with offices in Washington, D.C and Abu Dhabi. Ambassador Acevska was born in Capari, Macedonia. She came to the United States with her family at the age of nine, and grew up in Mansfield, Ohio. Ambassador Acevska completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies at The Ohio State University in the field of international studies. She attended Harvard University twice, once at the John F. Kennedy School of Government for a fellowship in Leadership in the 21st Century: Chaos, Conflict and Courage, and later at the Harvard Business School for an Executive Development Program sponsored by the World Bank. She currently resides in Washington, D.C. with her husband, psychiatrist and author, Dr. Joseph R. Novello.



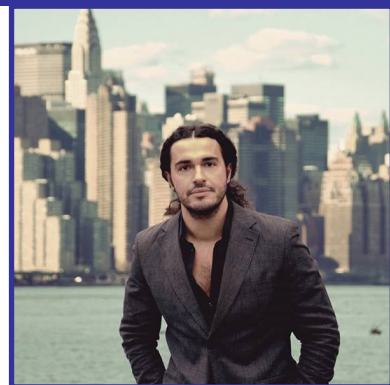
Jenny Davis is the Managing Editor at the Clinton Foundation and former speechwriter for President Clinton. Prior to joining the Clinton Foundation, Davis was the Program Manager at the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and the Member Relations Coordinator at the Council on Foreign Relations. She is a first-generation American of Macedonian descent, whose parents grew up in communist Yugoslavia and moved to New York City to give their children a chance to live the American Dream. Her mother took a night job cleaning offices and her father was the superintendent of the building that they lived in. Both were active union members and were valued in their positions for more than two decades. Davis later earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Spanish from Lehigh University and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Her career is now focused on helping advance social programs so that more people can have the same chances that she has had. Davis stresses that young Macedonians interested in pursuing a similar career path should know that it's exciting and highly rewarding.



Sophie Evanoff is President and CEO of Vanille Patisserie. Sophie was born and raised in Troy, Michigan, where she actively participated in the Macedonian community at St. Clement Orthodox Church. Sophie graduated from

the University of Michigan with a degree in psychology before attending Chicago's internationally renowned French Pastry School. Vanille Patisserie, based in Chicago, specializes in French desserts, pastries, and cakes which includes highly acclaimed macarons and handmade chocolates. Sophie is very passionate about Macedonian music and dancing!

Vladimir Cetkar, or Владимир Четкар, is a professional guitarist, vocalist, and composer based in New York City. Vladimir was born in Ohrid, Macedonia and made his way to Boston to attend the Berklee School of Music to study writing and production. Vladimir's main instrument is the jazz guitar. Throughout his career, he has released two studio albums: *We Will Never End* in 2008 and *Heavenly* in 2013. Vladimir can be found performing all over Europe and the United States!





Vera Arsova is the United Macedonian Diaspora's very own New York City Regional Representative. Vera was born in Stip, Macedonia. After finishing high school, she moved to Skopje to study computer sci-

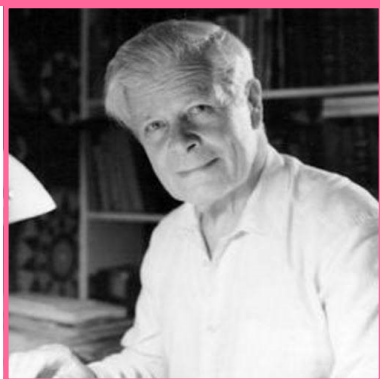
ence at Sts. Kiril and Metodij University. In addition to successfully fulfilling her school assignments, she became the youngest member of the Macedonian Senior Women National Basketball Team at the age of 17. Arsova was one of the brightest young basketball stars at age of 19 that earned her a prestigious sports scholarship to study at the University of Miami at Coral Gables in Florida. She was the first-ever Macedonian to be awarded this type of scholarship in the U.S. Arsova graduated with academic and sports honors with a degree in Computer Science Majoring in Cryptography and Network Security that launched her professional career with Quest Communication. Her professional experience of over 10 years ranges from telecommunications to finance and insurance working for world known companies such as Barclay's and AT&T. She has been living in NYC for the past five years and is actively involved in the Macedonian community. Arsova frequently attends cultural and professional events in NYC.

Dr. Peter George was born on June 29, 1929 in Akron, Ohio to parents who emigrated to the U.S. from Macedonia. As a child in the 1930s, his father who had lost his life's savings, worked on the railroad during the Great Depression. Young George had

issues of his own in elementary school, where bullies who perceived him as weak and awkward would drive him to begin weight lifting. George's first win was first place at the Ohio State weightlifting championships at the age of 14. After continued training, he won the National Championships, which would earn him a spot on the Olympic team. After taking home a Silver medal in the London games in 1948, George won the Gold medal at the Helsinki games in 1956, and another Silver medal in Melbourne. Soon George switched gears to dentistry. After finishing college at Kent State University, he attended Ohio State University Dental School in 1952, but unable to master all fields of dentistry, he focused on orthodontics. His talents led him to serve in the Army's senior dental student program as a second lieutenant and afterwards he entered Graduate school at Columbia University in 1960. George's current adventures revolve around sleep, as he is working on a book on jet lag.



Kevin Kouzmanoff is Macedonian American Major League Baseball player. Although Kevin was born in Newport Beach, California, his family is of Macedonian descent. He recently visited Skopje, Macedonia in early March of this year. As a third baseman, Kevin started his MLB career for the Cleveland Indians in 2006 and since then has played for the San Diego Padres, Oakland Athletics, Colorado Rockies, and Texas Rangers. Kevin is the only player in Major League Baseball history to hit a grand slam on his first MLB pitch.



ing the concept of lateness and its variations over the centuries by class, gender, and ethnicity.

Traian Stoianovich (1920-2005) was a historian and Balkan specialist marveled by his counterparts for his commitment to academics. He was born in Graješnica, Macedonia in 1920 and moved to the United States with his family at the age of seven. While working towards his BA at the University of Rochester, his education was interrupted by his service in the US Army during World War II. Stoianovich would soon pursue a MA from New York and later, his PhD at the Université de Paris in 1952. In returning to Rutgers as a history professor, he was most remembered for being a dedicated adherent of the French Annales School of Balkan specialists. He was well versed in both historical and geographical studies of the Southeastern European region as well as French culture, while engaging with students in his lectures, often intertwining



Dr. Natasha Garrett, a translator and interpreter dedicated to assisting international students in the United States. Dr. Garrett was born in Skopje, Macedonia on May 4, 1974 and came to the United States as an undergraduate student

at La Roche College in Pittsburgh, PA. Garrett obtained her Master's degree in English Literature from Duquesne University and her PhD in Social and Comparative Analysis in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently the Director of International Student Services at La Roche College and an adjunct professor in the ESL Department. Active in the global Pittsburgh community, she has served as a volunteer to welcome recent U.S. citizens and acted as a liaison between international students and their respective national/ethnic groups in the area. Garrett regularly presents at regional and national conferences on topics related to international education and cross-cultural communication. She worked on translating contemporary Macedonian poetry with her mother-in-law, the poet Nola Garrett. Arts and Letters, Christian Century, and Able Muse published selections of the translations. Being bilingual and working on literary translations has reaffirmed her commitment to promoting Macedonian culture abroad.

Kristina Ivindzioski, an

attorney who specializes in personal injury and immigration law.

Kristina's father first came to the United States over 45 years ago from a farming village in Macedonia. She is a first generation American and as a child, she

visited Macedonia every summer with her family. In order to keep her Macedonian heritage alive, Kristina and her husband speak Macedonian to their daughters and are enrolling their oldest daughter in a Macedonian folklore dance school. Professionally, Kristina served as an extern for the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. She also worked for the practices of Davis Saperstein & Saloman and Braff Harris & Sukoneck before opening her own law firm. When asked what gives her the most satisfaction in her line of work, Kristina responded that she is "so grateful to help [my] clients erase their fear and worry and replace those feelings with strength and hope". Personally and professionally, Kristina is an exceptional representation of what it means to be a successful Macedonian woman in America.





ALBUM WITH TRADITIONAL MACEDONIAN FOLK SONGS RELEASED BY SMITHSONIAN GETS PROMOTION IN SKOPJE

'Til Your Soul Comes Out! Music of Macedonia, an album of 17 traditional Macedonian folk songs released by Smithsonian Folkways Recording, was launched in Skopje. The record label is part of the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, whose mission is to collect, preserve and promote the cultural heritage of nations worldwide.

The CD, after being promoted last year at the Macedonian Cultural Center in New York, is now made available for the public in Macedonia for the first time.

The field recordings were collected in 1968 and 1973 by noted music and dance ethnographer Martin Koenig, who attended the promotion of the CD.

Fifty years ago, he had come to Macedonia in order to record Macedonian folk music in urban and rural environments.

"Unfortunately, when I came back to the US, my work-related engagements had prevented me from releasing these recordings, which were kept in a drawer collecting dust for nearly 50 years," Koenig said at the promotion and thanked the Macedonian diaspora, particularly Meto Koloski – president of the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) – for collecting funds for the release of the album.

According to Koenig, Macedonian traditional music bears exceptional significance. "I'm saying this as an expert in ethnology and anthropology. It is no ordinary music that pops up on charts, it is your national treasure," Koenig stressed.

Speaking at the promotion, Minister of Culture Elizabeta Kanceska-Milevska said through the project Macedonian folk music would find its way into the homes of many Macedonians, young people living and working in the US, and into the homes of a lot of Americans who



found inspiration and a call to discover Macedonia after listening to the album.

"The recordings belong to a crucial period of Macedonia's traditional music... This album is definitely affirming Macedonia as a country with an exceptionally rich folklore tradition and intangible cultural heritage that speaks volumes about our continuity throughout history," she noted.

For the first time in its history, the Smithsonian has released an album with Macedonian traditional music.

"It's a privilege to realize such a project together with the Smithsonian, one of the most prestigious museums in the world. The Macedonian diaspora was also involved in the project estimated at \$33,000. A third of this amount was provided by the diaspora," said Meto Koloski at the promotion.

After being officially launched in October 2015, the album has been already promoted in Washington, Seattle, New Jersey, Chicago and Toronto.

UMD ROCKIN PARTY IN TORONTO

GROWS EVEN MORE POPULAR

BY: LUKA PETRUSEVSKI, UMD FELLOW

Two years ago, Meto Koloski, President of the United Macedonian Diaspora, introduced Elizabeth Naumovski and Natasha Denkovski to each other during the 2014 Macedonian Tribute Ball. Soon after this, Elizabeth and Natasha shared a dinner together and realized their many common interests, most notable being their shared love of classic rock. The realization of their connection to classic rock marks the origin for the idea of the UMD Rockin Party. Their vision was simple; an energized night showcasing the best of classic rock while fundraising for United Macedonian Diaspora (Canada)'s educational programs. Fast forward to June 11th 2016 and Natasha and Elizabeth are welcoming over 150 people to Ashbridge's Yacht Club for the 2nd Annual UMD Rockin Party where guests hit the dance floor, clinked drinks, and raised funds for the United Macedonian Diaspora (Canada).

The event was a roaring success thanks to the amazing live performances by Toronto's best classic rock cover band Celler Door, the stellar DJ Mimi, and the iconic Greg Godovitz. This trifecta of performances resulted in a smooth blend of harmonies and rhythms that took guests back to a period of music that was characterized by compelling vocals and electrifying guitar play. Guests were sure to join Celler Door and Greg Godovitz on the dance floor as they featured hits by the Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, The Who, and many more classic rock bands. Suits,



or high heels did not stop any of the guests from being absorbed by the music. After each set the audience made sure to thank the performers with a thunderous applause.

The event welcomed individuals not only from the Macedonian community but also welcomed a number of individuals from the general public who appreciate classic rock and the efforts by the United Macedonian Diaspora. The success of this event has already brought about discussion for the next UMD Rockin Party. Elizabeth and Natasha were ecstatic at the turn out and hope for the event to continually grow with

each passing year. Their collaboration has resulted in a one of a kind event that appeals to individuals across all ages, classes, and nationalities.

UMD is a leading international non-governmental organization that is focused on promoting the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities worldwide. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., UMD has built an impressive network of operations that span across the globe. The money that was raised during the UMD Rockin Party will be directed to charitable programs and scholarships funds for children.

UMD'S BIRTHRIGHT MACEDONIA PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN SKOPJE

For a second year in a row, UMD's exciting summer program for college students of Macedonian heritage – Birthright Macedonia – launched in Skopje, Macedonia on July 8, 2016.

Four participants from Canada (Sonya Shirly Arrigo, Kristina Dimitrievski, Ryan Anthony Neceski, Colin Noel Owen), and two from the United States (Betsy Amelia Badders, Kevin Donald Speroff), are being immersed in the fabric of the Macedonian everyday life and culture for three weeks. In Skopje, they are residing with a host family, and interning in an institution that complements their academic goals, career goals or general interests. The internship grants participants the opportunity to work with fellow Macedonians and to gain a better understanding of their homeland.

UMD's local partner, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), held the opening of this year's Birthright Macedonian session at Stonebridge Hotel in the center of Macedonia's capital, Skopje. MCIC secures host families and internships for the participants. The opening consisted of a press conference (attended by almost every media outlet in Macedonia), a briefing for Birthright Macedonia participants, followed by a reception on the top floor of Stonebridge Hotel overlooking the entire Alexander the Great Square in Skopje.

Remarks during the opening session of Birthright Macedonia were



given by the founder of Birthright Macedonia and UMD Advisory Council member Peter Dallas, UMD Chairman Stojan Nikolov, MCIC's Executive Director Aleksandar Krzalovski, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski, first year Birthright Macedonia participant Natasia Kalajdzioski, and Aleksandar Murgoska who was instrumental in the beginning stages of Birthright Macedonia. Birthright Macedonia participants each shared their personal stories, where they grew up, where their parents came from, and what brings them to Macedonia. A special thanks to MCIC's Jasmina Chaushoska for all her hard work throughout the Birthright Macedonia process.

Dimitrievski and Neceski are interning at the Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Investments, Jerry Naumoff. Arrigo is interning in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Ss. Cyril and the Methodius University Institute of Reproduction. Speroff is interning at EuroBP. Badders interns

at the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle for Sovereignty and Independence – Museum of VMRO. Owen is interning at the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC).

Through Birthright Macedonia, UMD and MCIC hope to cultivate new talent and new voices for Macedonia as well as forming personal bonds between our youth and the place their families call home.

While in Macedonia, participants will have the opportunity to tour Macedonia's rich historical sites, visit Lake Ohrid and Prilep, and attend the famous Galichnik wedding.

These bright young stars resided in Macedonia until July 29, 2016. At the conclusion of their internships, each participant will receive a Certificate of Completion acknowledging their contributions to the people of Macedonia, the positive impacts they made on their ancestral country, and their skills gained through their internships.



AJVAR 5K RUN/WALK

Join UMD for the Annual Ajvar 5K Run/Walk to benefit Macedonian charities. Stay tuned on Ajvar5K.com for details on upcoming races in Los Angeles, Miami, and Garfield, NJ.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 8, 2016
9:00 a.m. Start

Bluemont Park
601 Manchester St.
Arlington, V.A. 22203

Beneficiary: Emanuil Plus Bitola.

An organization that helps care for children in Bitola, Macedonia with cerebral palsy and severe epilepsy. We are raising money in order to fund their medication, physical therapy, and sanitary needs.

DETROIT

September 25, 2016
10 a.m. Start

Stony Creek Metropark
4300 Main Park Road
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Beneficiary: Public Institution - Home for Infants and Young Children – Bitola

HOW TO DONATE TO UMD

We know you understand the challenges facing Macedonia and the Macedonian people. Your support today helps UMD make a greater impact tomorrow. All donations up to \$200,000 will be matched by the Bitove and Ilitch families.

- 1 Visit www.UMDiaspora.org
- 2 Navigate to the "Donate" link in the bottom left hand corner.
- 3 Select a donation amount (see below).
- 4 Select a donation frequency (see below).
- 5 Enter payment information either through the native portal or via PayPal®.
- 6 Dedicate your donation (optional).

MEMBER STATUS

STUDENT "GENERATION M" \$50	INDIVIDUAL \$100+	FAMILY \$250+	MACEDONIAN COMPANIONS \$1,000+
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METHOD OF DONATION

- ☐ Credit Card
- ☐ Check made payable to United Macedonian Diaspora
- ☐ Cash



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