New Student Council Representatives Elected

ACMT’s student council is now bigger, better and stronger than ever, ready to help make student life more exciting, challenging and rewarding.

ACMT students recently elected six of their peers to represent them on the newly reorganized and team-oriented Student Council. This year’s freshmen will be represented by Sydney Viaccuz, Maja Marković, and Ivona Novak, while sophomores will be led by Vedran Ercegović, Mirta Pađen, who was recently chosen to serve as President, and Diana Marlaia, who will serve as vice president.

These new representatives will officially begin their two-year mandates in the fall of 2008, joining current members Emil Bakev, Milja Stanojević, Doris Kukuljan and Marija Šušnjara. Three representatives of the incoming freshmen class will be elected at the end of next fall quarter.

The new student council structure emphasizes teamwork, with the president and vice president serving as facilitators and representatives. The student council will be responsible for organizing student social events, sports and club activities, and presenting student questions and concerns to faculty and administrators.

“There is a lot of potential here,” said Vedran. “It just takes some energy and a desire to make our voices heard, and get the most out of our educational experience and time here.”

The new student council also reflects the international character of the ACMT student body. These representatives have roots and life experience in the United States, Germany, Switzerland, England, Italy, Ireland, Montenegro and Macedonia as well as Croatia.

“I want to represent my fellow students and friends with their ideas and concerns,” said Ivan. “It’s important to be a liaison between students and faculty.”

“The challenge of helping out and working in a team to facilitate life for students appeals a lot to me,” said Sydney. “It’s also a great way to learn leadership and initiative.”

“The new structure creates a team atmosphere where the responsibilities are shared,” said ACMT Dean Don Hudspeth. “This change gives the ACMT Student Council an opportunity to become more effective, create more activities for ACMT students, and better represent the ACMT student body.”

by Rebecca Charry

Visiting American Students Discover the Real Dubrovnik

by Rebecca Charry and Barbara Beroš

Fourteen American students and two professors from RIT spent the spring quarter in Dubrovnik as the latest study abroad group to discover life at ACMT. Seven photography students, led by Prof. Denis Delfibaugh, and seven computer science students, led by Prof. Axel Schreiner, joined ACMT for a quarter of cross-cultural experience, study, relaxation and adventure.

Although they didn’t know much about Croatia before, these students had heard about Dubrovnik as one of most popular tourist destinations in the Mediterranean. They were impressed with the unique historical monuments of the Old Town, which are especially attractive for photography students.

“We were stunned when we saw all those old buildings and old city walls,” said RIT student Leah Andrews. “We have nothing like that at home. It’s fascinating!”

The photography students documented their Dubrovnik experience in a book of photographs and essays, titled “Dubrovnik: Coming and Going.” Their photos will also be exhibited in the main stairway of the ACMT building. Students Kayla Dow and Anna Ross focused their work on the boats and fishermen of the Old Town harbor.

“We met a wonderful fisherman named Šimun, who told us his whole life story and took us to the island of Lokrum,” Anna said. Getting to know Šimun over several weeks, these students also learned about the history of Dubrovnik, and real lives of local people.

“He was born in Dubrovnik in 1938 and grew up with seven brothers and one sister. At the age of four, his parents pushed him into the water so that he could learn how to swim. By the age of ten he had become a confident swimmer and began fishing and diving with his grandparents, they wrote in their essay about Šimun which will appear in the student publication along with several photos. “In his adolescence, he escaped Communism in a five-meter boat with six of his friends. They were able to row halfway to Italy before being caught by the police. Once returned to the Croatian coast, they spent a month and a half in prison for the betrayal of their homeland. Šimun chuckled and told us, “It wasn’t so bad; they gave me a haircut.”

Communicating with locals was not as hard as she expected, Anna said. “The first thing I learned to say was, ‘Mogu li vas slikati?’ Actually, we all practiced saying that before we even left Rochester.” ACMT students also found ways to help the RIT photographers and contribute to their projects. Barbara Beroš helped Anna and Kayla by serving as an interpreter, while Marija Radić joined RIT photography student Lori Duprey, and explained some of the history behind the historical monuments in the Old Town. Zoran Obradović, wrote an essay about Mt. Srđ, the hill overlooking Old Town Dubrovnik.

“The story of Srđ is the story of Dubrovnik, and the story of Dubrovnik is the story of people through the centuries,” Zoran wrote.

(continued on page 6)
Faculty Scholarship

Professor of English Rebecca Charry was elected to the Croatian academic title of viši predavac (higher lecturer) by the Croatian Ministry of Education. She also delivered lectures on “Common Grammar Errors Made By Speakers of Slavic Languages” and “Preventing Plagiarism” at the Braća Karića University Faculty of Foreign Languages and the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Belgrade, Serbia in April.

English Professors Tane Dušilo-Cavig and Rebecca Charry presented a lecture on “Bridging the Gap Between Academic and Technical Writing” at the annual conference of the Croatian Association of Professors of English (HUPE) in Sibenik in April.

An article by ACMT President and Dean Don Hudspeth on the importance of a tax treaty between Croatia and the US to avoid double taxation and increase investment opportunities between the two countries was published in the May edition of the newsletter of the American Chamber of Commerce.

Professor Irwin Metzger recently attended a conference on Albanian economic and tourism growth potential in Tirana, Albania.

Professor Ivana Jašić presented a lecture on “Models for Learning and Assessing of Policy Planning Skills in a College Learner” at the in the Curriculum Resource Center Spring session on curriculum development in Budapest, Hungary, in March. Professor Jašić discussed cognitive modeling used in her ACMT course in “Tourism Planning and Development. The session on Teaching Cultural Policy” was developed in cooperation with the CEU Department for Public Policy, Center for Policy Studies and The Budapest Observatory trainers and educators, among others.

An essay by philosophy professor Prof. Jesus Aguilar on the philosophy of action will be published this spring in the Journal Philosophia. The essay, written with Andrei Buckareff, is titled “Agency, Consciousness, and Executive Control.” Prof. Aguilar has also written “Literature and Latin American Philosophy,” which will be published in The Blackwell Companion to Latin American Philosophy, and “The Possibility of Latin American Thought”, in Critical Perspectives on the Profession of Philosophy: Latin American and African-American Voices, to be published by SUNY (State University of New York) Press.

Professors William Myers and Rick Lagiewski will present a paper on medical tourism at the European Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education Conference in Dubai in the fall. The paper will discuss destination attributes as part of the decision making model for medical tourists.

Globalization: Prof. Donald Howard

When Passion Meets Peace

Prof. Donald G. Howard, a specialist in international business and economics, has joined ACMT for the spring quarter to help ACMT seniors understand current events in the world around them, and take a close look into the future. His Senior Seminar class covers human rights, natural resources, terrorism and man other challenges and chances these students will face after graduation. Recently, the class discussed the role of international organizations, cultural conflicts women’s rights and the impending scarcity of food resources.

“We have all become very spoiled by having anything anytime we want. For example, by eating meat much too often, we are straining the Earth’s resources,” said senior student Neven Mardetko. Critical thinking is the basis of this course, which help students prepare for the unknown by carefully watching their surroundings. “Being a teacher at ACMT is a wonderful job,” said Prof. Howard. “I get to know opinions of students from all over the world. It is astonishing that students nowadays seem to be more optimistic.”

After earning a doctorate in international business, Prof. Howard worked on internal loan analysis in California, but left banking after a year, when he realized the routine of dealing with numbers was not the future for him. Instead, he found something much more exciting: flying. He joined the U.S. Air Force and spent seven years in active service and 20 in reserve. “The exchange programs were especially thrilling,” he said. “The Jordanian and Argentinean Air Force, as well as the German Luftwaffe took me all around the world.” As a consultant for the United Nations, he saw a variety of situations in different countries, and traveling has been his passion ever since.

“Dubrovnik is an amazingly beautiful place, and a historical city at the same time, where people still are part of it and make it vivid,” he said. “It feels like living on an island since it is such a small community, but people here are very friendly and the quality of life is high. Still, I think that it is hard to get a grasp of global issues when living here, when the atmosphere is so peaceful. Croatians seem to be happier people, compared to other countries. I think I would have enjoyed being born as a Croatian.”

by Carmen Franjković

Prof. Donald Howard

Small Business: Prof. Edward Ganster

The New Cook in Town

Visiting professor Edward Ganster joined ACMT this spring, teaching Small Business Management to juniors. The course covers all details of establishing and running a business, from financial planning to marketing. A professor at RIT’s program of Hospitality and Service Management, Prof. Ganster also oversees management of the student-run restaurant on campus.

“The restaurant industry is my favorite,” Prof. Ganster said. “I love to combine my passion for cooking with my interest for small businesses.” He also worked in the retail and computer industries for some years, but could not give up on his passion for restaurants, and worked as a part time cook at the same time. “I figured out early that I enjoy everything about this business,” he said. “I am dreaming about opening up a restaurant in Rochester with my favorite meal combination on the menu -- Italian-American.” He is also a beer enthusiast and enjoys brewing his own.

“I honestly have not been around Europe a lot, so Croatia is a very exciting experience. First I got a culture shock, but I love the slower pace here. The laid-back attitude is very refreshing. Dubrovnik is just as beautiful as on the postcards.”

by Carmen Franjković

Philosophy: Jesus Aguilar

Prof. Jesus Aguilar came to Dubrovnik from RIT to teach Introduction to Philosophy to sophomores this quarter. Originally from Mexico, Prof. Aguilar moved to the US to finish high school. After receiving a scholarship, he continued his higher education in the United States, and said he considers American education systems one of the best in the world. After graduating, Prof. Aguilar moved to Canada where he earned his doctorate at McGill University in 2003. At RIT he also teaches Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Mind and Latin-American Philosophy and does extensive research and publishing. Prof. Aguilar said his experience in Dubrovnik has been mostly positive, although after three months he is still trying to get used to the local lifestyle.

“It feels weird sometimes when you find yourself among a group of people who suddenly start speaking Croatian and you do not understand one single word,” he said with a smile. Still, he would be more than glad to return to Dubrovnik to teach at ACMT again.

Students this quarter are enjoying his course. “Professor Aguilar teaches in a way that anyone can find interesting,” said student Mladen Pađen. “Honestly, I did not like philosophy very much in high school and was not very excited about taking this course at first, but I really enjoy his relaxed teaching style and the way he presents fundamental philosophical issues in an understandable and entertaining way.”

by Ivana Milinović
Financial Management: Roy Pierce

“I'm having a ball here...”

Prof. Roy Pierce joined ACMT this spring quarter, teaching Financial Management for Hotels to freshmen. “It’s fascinating for me,” he said. “There are elements of financial and managerial accounting, combined with corporate finance — but focused on hotels. It is mostly a numbers course, which is difficult for some students, but I try to use some humor in the classroom, and I think they appreciate it. I really enjoy these students.”

A founding faculty member of ACMT’s sister school, the American University in Kosovo in 2004, Prof. Pierce holds a bachelor’s degree in management, as well as three master’s degrees in business administration, public administration and finance. He has extensive professional experience as an educator, trainer, and financial administrator, as well as a long military career. He enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1965, served three years of active duty, and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, 31 years later. He has also been an avid cook for more than 50 years, and especially enjoys creating Cajun dishes from the New Orleans area.

“I’ve had a rather happenstance life,” he said. “In my early years, I was once a forklift salesman. Later, as a National Guard officer, I ran a state prison in Elmira, New York, during a prison guard strike. I have always been open to trying new things, and somehow it has always led me to something interesting.”

True world travelers, Prof. Pierce and his wife spend their time between upstate New York, Kosovo, and Mar del Plata on the coast of Argentina. They hope to return to Dubrovnik every other spring to continue teaching. “I’m having a ball here,” Prof. Pierce said, “especially the atmosphere and environment.”

Photography: Denis Defibaugh

Life of a Photographer

RIT photography professor Denis Defibaugh joined ACMT this spring, leading a group of seven RIT photography students for a quarter of study abroad. Prof. Defibaugh called Dubrovnik a real photographer’s paradise, with so many interesting people, natural beauty and historic sites to be photographed and documented.

While the students are working on their own projects, Prof. Defibaugh is working on photographing illuminated manuscripts at the Little Brethren Monastery in Dubrovnik, as well as a project called “1.5 Years Later” which documents the lasting effect of war on the buildings of the city.

Prof. Defibaugh’s most recent published work is a book called “The Day of the Dead,” a collection of his photographs, documenting religious rituals of people in Oaxaca, Mexico. Those rituals are connected with the belief that on The Day of the Dead (usually celebrated on November 1 in connection with the Catholic holiday of All Saints Day), the souls of the dead return to Earth. The photos capture the sorrow and the happiness of the people and express admiration for people honoring their loved ones who have died.

Photographs from this book were part of an exhibition, “Family Ties Do Not Die: The Day of the Dead,” which was shown in Miami, Rochester, San Francisco, Montana, and all over Europe. Prof. Defibaugh, an RIT graduate, has photographed for many well-known companies and organizations, including UNICEF, Coca-Cola, and American Express. He taught at East Texas State University and Colorado Mountain College, before joining the faculty of RIT in 1987.

At RIT he has taught a wide range of courses, and was chair of the advertising photography program for eight years. He has also led workshops for Yellowstone National Park and Florida A&M University as well as in Mexico, Cuba, Indonesia and Korea. His talent and participation in numerous exhibitions were recognized and acknowledged in 1993, when he earned a Fulbright Travel/Study Grant to Mexico.

by Barbara Beroš

Computer Science: Prof. Axel Schreiner

A Game That Never Ends

Computer Science professor Axel Schreiner visited ACMT this spring, leading a group of RIT students for a quarter of study abroad. This is the first group of Computer Science students at ACMT, and Prof. Schreiner was the person who pushed to make this visit happen. He visited Dubrovnik about 35 years ago with his parents and has wanted to come back ever since.

“We were a bit frightened about adjusting to this new environment but with Prof. Schreiner’s help, everything is easier,” said visiting RIT student Leah Andrews. “We even did laundry at his house when our washing machine broke. “Schreiner has a great passion for computer science and his teaching. A university degree is not useful if you don’t keep up with developments in the field and gain and implement new knowledge, he said. Born in Aalen, in southern Germany, he studied in Stuttgart and earned his master’s degree in mathematics and doctoral degree in computer science in Illinois, USA. He has taught computer science at several colleges and is thankful that, as a professor, he could stay in college forever. “I never get bored with what I do,” he said. “For me, computer science is a game that never ends.”

by Barbara Beroš

Spanish: Dubravka Zakarija

Professor Dubravka Zakarija joined ACMT this spring to teach beginning and intermediate Spanish. “I like the atmosphere at ACMT very much,” she said. “The students are highly motivated, and everyone is very open. It has been a real treat working here.”

A graduate of the University of Zagreb, she plans to earn M&A and possibly return to ACMT in the future. “Prof. Zakarija’s Spanish class is very interesting,” said Luana Krsćić. “I can follow the lectures, which is very important, since you can easily lose track when it comes to learning a new language. Professor Zakarija takes time to explain things, and make the students interested.”
**ALUMNI UPDATES**

**Luka Borić ’07** was hired as a research assistant at Nova TV in Zagreb.

**Latica Ivković ’07** was hired as management trainee for the Management Board of Večernji List, owned by Styria Medien AG media group.

**Bojana Đurović ’07** has been hired as Marketing, Product and Training Manager at Montenegro Investment Services, a franchise of Savills.

**Goran Babin ’03** was recently promoted to Assistant Director in the Food and Beverage Department of Sunce Koncern.

**Jug Radeka ’04** was hired as Marketing Manager at Recro information technology distributors in Zagreb.

**Ivan Kraljević ’07** was hired as sales assistant at AON Croatia insurance intermediary and consulting company in Zagreb.

**Irena Deretić ’04** has enrolled in a Master’s degree program in Human Resource Development at Rochester Institute of Technology.

**Paola Crevatini ’06** was hired as Assistant Brand Manager for Croatia at Unilever Croatia in Zagreb.

**Karmen Kutnjak ’02** was hired as Project Manager at Dubrovnik Travel agency.

**Mario Skopljaković ’04** was promoted to General Manager at Hotel Pical, managed by Valamar Hotels and Resorts in Istria.

**Vanja Vidović Šepic ’06** was promoted to Marketing Manager for the Balalaika Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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**FROM: Srdjan Kisic ’04**

Dublin, Ireland

Hotel Deputy General Manager

Dear ACMT,

I have been living in Dublin, Ireland for the last 4 years. I’ve been working as a Deputy General Manager at the Ripley Court Hotel since July 2004. I’m also currently studying for an MBS degree in International Business at the American College Dublin, and I’m just about finished with the first semester.

I really love Ireland, especially Dublin, and I’m taking this opportunity to thank you some way ACMT helped me to make the decision to come to Ireland in the first place. I remember in Prof. Charry’s Senior Seminar course on globalization, we learned that Ireland came up as the most globalized and cosmopolitan country in the world on the annual Foreign Policy Globalization index. I believe it was at that moment that I said to myself, ‘Let’s give it a try’.

Within two weeks after graduation I was in Dublin. Here I am four years later still reaping rewards from the brave decision which was ignited in that class.

All the best,

Srdjan Kisic

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**FROM: Andrea Funda ’07**

Grenoble, France

Graduate Student

Dear ACMT,

Last year, I packed my bags and moved to Grenoble, France to pursue a Master’s degree in International Business. So far, living in the French Alps has been tres bien.

In the beginning, the culture shock was overwhelming. I found myself in a new country, surrounded by new people of different cultures. However, it didn’t take long to start forming bonds and creating our own little “melting pot” community in the centre of France.

I was placed in a group of around 30 students, with approximately 25 different nationalities. The first couple of weeks were designed to help us break stereotypes about others, and by the end we were ready to plunge ourselves into the world of international business with open minds free of prejudice.

With obligatory classes, tons of group projects, presentations and professors from all over the world, it reminded me a lot of ACMT. In class, we didn’t just learn theory; we discussed it thoroughly, with everyone sharing experiences from his or her own home country. Speaking about FDI in China with a Chinese student or corruption in Nigeria with a local of that country was priceless.

Now, the first semester is behind me. It brought me a lot of new friends, new experiences and understanding of where I want to go.

All the best,

Andrea Funda

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**ALUMNI**
Students Gain Insight into Business World From ACMT Graduates

ACMT alumni once again returned this spring quarter to share their professional knowledge and employment experience with current students at the fifth annual Alumni Panel in April. These ACMT graduates now work for some of Croatia’s best companies or own their own businesses.

About 300 junior and freshmen students had the chance to learn how things work in the business world by listening to stories, advice and experiences of working professionals who were once ACMT students themselves. Rotating small groups were organized by topic, including small business development, human relations, real estate and food and beverage management.

Since all the guest speakers were once ACMT students, they recognized current students’ need for accurate information and first hand experiences. Discussions were held in a relaxed and spontaneous atmosphere which encouraged even the shyest students to ask questions.

Alumni mostly concentrated on their experiences during and after college. They suggested that students actively take advantage of some of the opportunities that ACMT offers, because one day that can help them stand out from the crowd and get noticed by potential employers.

Students asked alumni about their previous and current jobs, and their co-op experiences. Students were especially interested in the responsibilities that go with privately owned businesses. Mostly they asked questions about taxes, government regulations and financial issues. Some of the students revealed their enterprising spirit by sharing their plans and visions and asking for feedback from alumni.

“Students can’t expect to graduate from college and immediately be employed as a manager. Higher job positions require higher responsibilities that go with privately owned businesses. Mostly they asked questions about taxes, government regulations and financial issues. Some of the students revealed their enterprising spirit by sharing their plans and visions and asking for feedback from alumni.

“Students can’t expect to graduate from college and immediately be employed as a manager. Higher job positions require higher key qualities of any manager.

“Students can’t expect to graduate from college and immediately be employed as a manager. Higher job positions require higher financial issues. Some of the students revealed their enterprising spirit by sharing their plans and visions and asking for feedback from alumni.

Alumni especially emphasized that as future managers, students will have to establish good and trustworthy relationships with employees. Good interpersonal skills were mentioned as one of the key qualities of any manager.

“In any job, people work with people, not with companies,” said Mirko Matić, who started a unique historical souvenir production and sales company in Dubrovnik with his wife, Lana Vego, also an ACMT alumna.

“I think we all learned a great deal from alumni,“ said freshman Melisa Kakaš. “They all graduated from ACMT, have had same college experience as we do, so they are certainly the best persons to be asked for advice.”

by Mirela Raić and Barbara Beroš

FROM: Marina Sabljo ’04
Melbourne, Australia

Sharetrader, NAB Capital

Dear ACMT,

Right now I am living and working in the center of Melbourne, Australia, and loving it! At the moment I am employed in the currency options and commodity operations department of an investment house called NAB Capital, part of National Australian Bank. I am also studying for a graduate certificate of applied finance and investments at FINSIA (financial institution of Austrasiasia).

After graduating from ACMT in 2004, I worked as a restaurant supervisor and later as a manager in Rarotonga Beach and Spa Resort, in Rarotonga, Cooks Islands. From there I moved to Melbourne, Australia, where I worked at the Melbourne Marriott hotel at the front desk and reservations.

Besides sharetrading, I am also a professional dancer (contemporary belly dance), and I perform regularly at multicultural events, corporate functions, and weddings.

Melbourne is the best! Love it! Take care!

Marina
Discovering the Real Dubrovnik  
(continued from page 1)  

The RIT students said they found living in Dubrovnik very different from living in Rochester, of course, and sometimes challenging, but they are having a great time. 

“The life rhythm in Dubrovnik is very different than the one we are used to,” said student Brad Hutchinson. “But we don’t find it hard to enjoy a cup of coffee for hours. That is one of the customs here that we immediately accepted!”

They quickly met ACMT students in Prof. Stasa Puškarić’s Environmental Science course, which also introduced them to the natural beauty and ecological systems of the Dalmatian coast, with field trips to nearby islands. In just a few weeks, they have adjusted to local customs, and even learned some of the local language. “I have a ton of friends here now,” said RIT illustration major Teo Acosta. “I feel proud that I can go to the grocery store and they don’t talk to me in English anymore.”

These groups follow in the footsteps of previous generations of RIT students who have discovered ACMT. Next spring, a group of students from RIT’s School of Film and Animation, led by Prof. Cathleen Ashworth, will join ACMT and create documentary films about life in Dubrovnik.

In the meantime, the next group of visiting RIT students will arrive in early June and stay for the five weeks of their intensive travel program, with five weeks of intensive study. These students will enroll in Environmental Science with Prof. Dr. Stasa Puškarić, art history of Dubrovnik, Venice and the Mediterranean Coast with Prof. Kate Bagóje, and Social Change with visiting RIT professor Dr. Vincent Serravalle.

Witchcraft

Prof. Dr. Lynne Montgomery gave a lively and enthusiastic presentation at ACMT in April on “Witchcraft Trials in the Renaissance,” in which she analyzed the social, economic, political and religious contexts that led to the torture and killing of thousands of women accused of being witches. 

“It was a very interesting presentation, and sometimes shocking,” said freshman Roman Pfeifer. “I realized that we, as the male sex, were very lucky for the past few centuries. For most bad things we blamed women.”

During the lecture, Prof. Montgomery suggested that anyone who thinks that we don’t accuse women of witchcraft today should try a Google search on ‘Hillary Clinton’ and ‘witch’. “I tried it, and I found a surprising number of hits,” said freshman Dina Dragičević. “These kinds of accusations against powerful women are not based on evidence, such as their policies or even their private lives, but solely on their positions as leaders and women.”

Resisting Consumerism

Mr. Goran Vuković, a specialist in the history of art and philosophy, presented a lecture to students in Prof. Dr. Davor Ljubimir’s sociology class on the connections between consumerism, modern art, and individual happiness. The lecture, entitled “The Time to be Against is Over,” used examples from well-known post-modern artists such as Andy Warhol, English graffiti artist Banksy, contemporary intellectual authors such as Naomi Klein and William Gibson, and a TV ad currently being shown in Croatia for Ožužjsko beer, to encourage students to think about ways to resist manipulation by consumer culture.

A native of Dubrovnik, Mr. Vuković talked about the city’s tradition of putting the welfare of the collective public ahead of individual interests, a philosophy embodied in the motto, “Obliti Privatorum - Publica Curate (forget private affairs, look after the public good) which was inscribed over the entrance to the Great Council Hall in the Rector’s Palace in the days of the Dubrovnik Republic. This heritage has been largely forgotten in Dubrovnik today, Mr. Vuković said, as people look for happiness in individual material satisfaction.

Croatian Bankers

As a part of Prof. Irwin Metzger’s Financial Management course, ACMT students had the opportunity to learn from Croatian bankers about banking management. Mr. Tomica Barjak of Splitska Banka, Mrs. Marija Tivkica Radulj of Raiffaisen Bank, Vicenzo Jerković of Zagrebačka Banka, and Ivo Pavličević, director of Privredna Banka Zagreb, pointed out the importance of small to medium-sized business enterprise banking program, which brings banks up to 90 percent of their revenue. Even though the banking business has been perceived through the centuries as a man’s job, Prof. Metzger pointed out that he is happy to see more and more women today are achieving executive leadership positions in banking.

“Sometimes, in less developed areas of Croatia, I am not able to do business or make a deal if I do not have a male colleague next to me. But, more and more women are being hired in bank management positions,” said Mrs. Marija Tivkica Radulj, Small and Medium Enterprise Manager at Raiffaisen Bank.

Emotional Intelligence

As part of the senior Leadership course, communications expert Nancy Lampen held a lecture on Emotional Intelligence, and strategies for improving one’s emotional intelligence quotient, or EQ. Research shows that emotional intelligence is much more important for developing successful leadership qualities than traditional IQ.

EQ is all about understanding your emotions, Ms. Lampen said. And a human being feels an average of up to 27 different emotions in a single hour. To assess and improve your EQ, it is important to be self-aware of your emotions (knowing what do you feel and when). Secondly, self-management (the ability to relax when you are under pressure) is the ability to control your emotions. Thirdly, social awareness is very important for the hospitality industry, where it is necessary to show empathy, to be able to paraphrase and apply active listening skills. Service is all about working with people, and it is important to be able to understand and empathize with the needs and requests of customers. Fourthly, relationship management enables you to influence others, to be a coach or mentor or build a successful team. For example, in order to improve employees’ performance, you have to understand their emotions and be able to point them in the right direction. Ms. Lampen is an expert in communications, crisis management, group processes and human resources, and has developed and taught training seminars and workshops for many organizations and international companies. 

by Rebecca Charry and Brana Vujnović
students at ACMT work on weekends, while student at RIT don’t. And of course, students from Croatia wonder why RIT students are not responding. In order to make the conference function, the details have to be set well in advance. That is something one cannot assume if he hasn’t been introduced to the studying habits of RIT students, or vice versa. Cultural differences present another challenge, as well as technology for which you always have to have a backup plan.”

Two years of RIT student research, conducted as part of the leadership class, shows that corporations and small entrepreneurs in Croatia most frequently use e-mail for international communication. Use of Skype conference software is increasing, followed by the use of phone. Old fashioned “snail mail” and private postal services are still in demand for original documents. Students learned that it is important to use all the senses for quality communication, especially in establishing a successful international conference. by Brana Vujnović

Thank you, Prof. Nina Skurić

The ACMT community recently said goodbye and good luck to one of its longest serving and dedicated faculty members, Corporate Relations and Professional Development Manager Professor Nina Skurić. After more than 10 years at ACMT, she is moving on to a new position as Director of the Importanne Resort in Dubrovnik.

She joined ACMT in 1998 to teach Tourism Planning and Development, and since then, has taught almost every student who has ever attended the college. She has also helped hundreds of students find co-op jobs and permanent employment around the world after graduation.

Over the years, she created and expanded a network of local, national and international companies, who worked closely with ACMT, hired our students, and sent their employees to the college for professional training.

“She has contributed immensely to our success, particularly in the areas of cooperative education, corporate relations, professional development and alumni relations,” said ACMT President and Dean Don Hudspeth. “The annual ACMT Career Fair and Alumni Panel have grown into regionally recognized events under her leadership. By teaching the freshmen course Survey in Service Management, Nina also gave all of our students an excellent introduction to the service industry. We will miss Nina’s professionalism and her loyalty to the college.”

“Co-op is a vital part of the education at ACMT, and it is a chance for every student to go out into the world and see what awaits them. Many benefits come from such an experience, for instance, students get better insight into how a business is run, have a chance to work in multicultural teams. They learn time management, and how to deal with responsibilities,” she said. “I remember when ACMT started to operate, the first students who came, my colleagues, the friendships that I have created; it is a big part of my life.”

“We are all going to miss Prof. Nina Skurić,” said ACMT alumnus Tomislav Svalina, who graduated in 2005. “She did great job for ACMT and all of us.”

by Siniša Grbić

New Corporate and Alumni Relations Manager: Christina Petrović

Longtime ACMT staff member Christina Petrović has taken over the responsibilities as ACMT’s corporate and alumni relations manager, building on the experience and expertise she gained over more than four years working with Prof. Nina Skurić and as ACMT’s event manager.

In her new position, Miss Petrović is in charge of co-op opportunities and relations with local and international employers, for events such as Career Fair, and helping students find permanent and co-op employment. She plans to offer new opportunities for co-op around the world, including working through the international employment agency, WISE.

In addition, Miss Petrović will be responsible for ACMT’s alumni relations program, including events such as informal social events around Croatia. She has already organized alumni events in Zagreb, Split, and Sarajevo and plans another get-together in Dubrovnik this fall. She also organizes the annual Alumni Panel, in which ACMT graduates return to the college to share their professional expertise and career experience with current students.

She will also continue to organize important ACMT events such as entrance exams and the annual commencement ceremony, Dean’s List, and the Children’s Winter Festival.

by Siniša Grbić
ENTRANCE EXAMS
FOR 2008-2009
ACMT is accepting applications for the 2008-2009 academic year. Entrance exams will be held
Saturday, July 5
Zagreb
Saturday, July 19
Dubrovnik
The entrance exam takes 3 hours to complete. It includes a written mathematics exam, a written English language exam (including an essay) and a personal interview with a member of the ACMT faculty or staff.
To register for the exam, or for more information, please visit www.acmt.hr/admissions, email American.college@acmt.hr or call (385) 020 433 000, or 020 433 001.