Graduating Seniors Launch Careers

By Rebecca Charry

Over 150 senior students are about to graduate from ACMT as the class of 2011. One important chapter of their lives is coming to a close, and another one is just beginning. Some are staying close to home, others are heading overseas, but whether they plan to work, travel, or enroll in advanced degree programs, these students are leaving ACMT behind, and moving out into the world.

Many students have been fortunate to find good jobs with world-renowned companies, in spite of the current economic conditions, which can make job hunting for young people discouraging.

Diana Marlais and Daniel Krmeš have already begun their positions as Territory Sales Representatives for Phillip Morris International.

“One reason I applied for this job in the first place, was something Prof. Jennifer Matić mentioned in class. She said many people miss out on job opportunities because they immediately dismiss jobs involving sales. Many people are skeptical about the field or just don’t want to have anything to do with it, even if they don’t know much about it. I didn’t want to be one of those who missed out on an opportunity, and Career Fair was essential in helping me get in contact with the company.

I am optimistic about my future; a number of ACMT alumni that has started working for Philip Morris in entry-level positions have advanced pretty fast. The advancement opportunities at the company are definitely above average.”

Ksenija Šanković is excited to start her new job with Coca-Cola HBC Croatia. She will be working in the HR department of the company’s Zagreb headquarters, following a successful co-op with the company at the end of her junior year.

“Launching my career in a company like Coca-Cola HBC is a big step in my life,” she said. “It is the job I have been working and studying for all this time, and I feel so pleased to be employed immediately after graduation.”

Melisa Kakaš and Blaženko Svačišić are excited about heading to the coolest city in all of Texas --- Austin. They have accepted a one-year positions in hotel operations. Melisa will be employed with Courtyard Marriott and Blaženko at White Lodging/Holiday Inn.

(Continued on page 7)
**INTERNATIONAL DINNER: BON APPÉTIT!**

By Ivana Raguž

It’s 8 p.m. in Dubrovnik’s old town and Prof. Tane Dušilo Cav-ich’s elegant apartment is filled with students, and the colorful table is covered with unusual dishes from all over the world. What else could it be, but the 11th annual International Dinner, where students from ACMT’s foreign language department prepare dishes from the countries whose languages they study, and share a taste of the culture with their friends. Students can’t wait to show off with the craziest and most delicious dishes, and professors can’t wait to see what their students prepared — dishes like the Schwäbischer Kirschtraller from Germany, the coca au chocolate from France, the bruschetta from Italy or the sopa de maíz from Spain.

Professors Zrinka Friganović Sain and Nikolina Božinović opened the buffet with a welcoming speech, and everybody jumped at the opportunity to eat.

Not only was the food delicious, but Prof. Tane’s beautiful Old Town apartment provided the perfect setting. “This is a dream,” said student Michel Kligge, as he walked in. Prof. Tane said she enjoys opening her home to students. The Town apartment provided the perfect setting. “This is a dream,” said student Michel Kligge, as he walked in.

The evening was not just about eating and drinking, but also about voting. After all, this is a competitive event. Guests voted for their favorite and most original dishes. Among the 30 different dishes that were created, the sopa de maíz (corn soup) and burritos made by Lorena Kramarić, Vedrana Kataj and Ivana Raguž won first prize — a cookbook. Spain also took second place with delicious sangria made by Ante Vidović and Tomislav Tomić.

The French won third prize for gain aux épices avec le creme fraiche, made by Deni Paskojević.

“This event is a great way for students to experience the real joy of studying a foreign language and culture,” said Prof. Friganović Sain. “Studying a language is not just about grammar — it’s about experiencing culture and communicating with people.”

**LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE: CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS**

By Nikolina Božinović

In today’s globalized world, knowing foreign languages is considered a necessity, and multilingualism an investment in the future. Foreign language proficiency is not just a cultural asset, it’s an important business skill. It increases employment opportunities, creates a network of business contacts, and opens the door to business collaboration and economic prosperity.

The goal of modern foreign-language teaching at ACMT is to teach students to use the language for real communication in everyday life. With Croatia’s entrance to the European Union approaching soon, these skills are even more important for ACMT students.

Learning a second, or third, language a process, not an event. Sometimes it feels like swimming in the ocean — one minute you’re floating and the next you’re overwhelmed by a wave. Sometimes it is like going on a journey, like a new terrain, filled with surprises.

In my opinion, by learning a new language you become a new person: you try new ways of behaving which are sometimes comfortable and sometimes not. Learning a new language is definitely an investment in the future. It broadens your mind and your world.

**STRENGTHENING TIES TO RIT’S FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

Dr. Hiroko Yamashita, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Culture at RIT, and Associate Professor of Japanese, visited ACMT in April. The goal of Dr. Yamashita’s visit was to increase the communication between the two Foreign Language Departments. She had a tour of ACMT with our foreign language professors, and visited and observed their classes to compare our approaches in foreign language teaching and to align the instruction between the two campuses.

“This was a great opportunity for us to strengthen our ties to RIT,” said ACMT Foreign Languages Coordinator Nikolina Božinović. “Particularly regarding our general teaching approach, aligning our syllabi and getting ready for semester conversion. Dr. Yamashita is even interested in having Croatian taught as a foreign language at RIT, and learning more about Croatian literature and culture.”

**“GOING LOCAL” RIT STUDENTS JOIN ACMT FOR SPRING QUARTER**

By Katarina Kušić

We all know about the special relationship between RIT and ACMT, but nothing makes the two campuses come together as the study abroad program every year. This spring, 40 RIT students decided to explore the Pearl of Adriatic, in search of new experiences.

“I came to Croatia because I had never left my bubble before,” said computer science student James Bierbrauer. “I lived in the same 60 mile radius my entire life. I never had thought of leaving it before. Then I saw the CS department advertising, study abroad and I decided it would be neat.”

Study abroad is an opportunity to experience a new culture, but not just as a typical “tourist,” explained RIT Film Professor Jack Beck. “By the time they leave, they have made friends, and feel like they belong here in a way. They take home much more than memories — they have expanded context of experience to draw from. They have a wider view of what living is all about.”

“We can become complacent in our comforts of home. Designed environments, schedules, and activities can deaden the motivation to let the unknown be a guide. Personally, whenever I stay in a new place, I find an exciting inspiration to explore... From that, I gain a powerful motivation to think and create. This trip has inspired me with a dozen new ideas and projects.”

The group consisted of 11 students in the Computer Science program, 7 students in the Film Program, 13 students in the ISTEM Program and 11 students who came on their own through direct enrollment. The groups were paired with three students from ACMT who acted as peer mentors to the groups and helped them get to know Dubrovnik, and deal with the initial culture shock that comes with every foreign experience, including getting used to the language. Some students needed help trying to decipher strange looking Croatian words. After staring at the word “mrkva” for a few minutes, the only thing one bewildered RIT student could say, was “That word only has one vowel in it—and it’s at the end.”

All of the RIT students took Environmental Science with Prof. Stasha Putkarić who provided them with his insight in the region through field trips to Mount Srđ and the island of Lopud. They also explored the region around Dubrovnik with field trips to Korčula, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.

The easy going Mediterranean coffee culture that made many students wonder about their return to the busy Rochester campus. “The primary reason I wanted to study abroad was to experience a different culture, and that’s definitely what I’m getting out of this,” said computer science student Jim Dufoh. “In fact, it might be tough to adjust back to the hectic life at RIT after spending a quarter here.”

RIT students learned a great deal not only from their classes, but also from spending time with ACMT students from around the world: “The students at ACMT were much more approachable than I first imagined. They love to hear about the US and want to share stories about their hometowns as well. Exploring this region has given me a deeper appreciation for many things that people in the US generally take for granted,” Kyle said.

“I like living so close to the sea,” Prof. Beck added. “That large blue expanse of one moving mass is just magical.”

By the end of the quarter, most of the RIT students considered Dubrovnik as a second home: even the people who give out flyers on Stradun started recognizing them and stopped treating them like tourists.
Class of 2001 Celebrates 10-Year Reunion

Over 170 ACMT graduates from the last decade gathered at the Karaka Pub in Zagreb, in March, to relax, party network and re-connect with old friends from their college days.

“It was great to see everyone again” said Selma Avdagić. She is currently working on her doctorate and recently gave birth to her first child. Looking very pregnant at the party, she said proudly that she was carrying “a future ACMTer”.

“It is hard to believe that the 10 years since graduation have gone by so quickly,” said Morana Rabatić. “It’s great that we all get together at these events”.

“This is a great event to share memories, and meet old friends,” said Luka Borić. “Every year I am more and more happy that I graduated from ACMT.”

“It’s fantastic to see everyone, and see that the ACMT energy is still there,” said Marko Ferek. “My time at ACMT had a huge impact on my life – I learned about myself while I was there, and this decided the direction my professional life would take.”

Alumni enjoyed an evening of socializing and music along with ACMT Dean Don Hudspeth, Associate Dean Larisa Buhin Lončar, Christina Petrović ACMT Corporate Relations Manager, and ACMT Alumni Association President Maja Škrinjar, and longtime ACMT professor Gladyš Winkworth.

“The gratification of teaching is in seeing the final product: successful working people who passed through your classes and perhaps gained a little something that is helping them along the way,” Prof. Winkworth said. “It is joyous to see so many of the young people who have touched my life over the years talking about their careers, their families, their adventures and reminiscing about the great days they had in college.”

“At this year’s alumni event, I discovered that one of our alumni has written a successful book and several others are holding very responsible positions in large companies. Some are entrepreneurs with varying degrees of monetary success and some are focused on marriage and family. Some are pursuing doctoral degrees and hoping to come to ACMT to teach, or coming back as guest lecturers. For me, seeing their success is like getting a bonus at the end of a successful year.”

Career Updates

Ana Dragović ’05 was recently hired as Team Analyst and Country Coordinator within Balkan region at the headquarters of Hypo Alpe Adria Bank in Klagenfurt, Austria, in the Collection Department. In 2009 she earned a master’s degree in Risk Management and Insurance from the university in Trieste, Italy.

Ana Sarić ’05 was recently promoted to Junior Brand Manager in the marketing department at Philip Morris International in Zagreb.

Matea Žolo ’09 and Josipa Pavlović ’09 recently earned Master of Science in Global Management degrees from the Rouen Business School, in Rouen, France. Josipa has been hired as operations and guest relations manager at the Pućić Palace Hotel in Dubrovnik.

Branka Belčić ’06 was hired by Google as Online Sales Account Manager for the Croatian market. She will be working in Dublin, Ireland.

Vinka (Košić) Jurčić ’00 was hired as Assistant Director for EU projects, funds and PR at the Hydrographic Institute of the Republic of Croatia in Split.

Daniel Čelavac ’08 was promoted to Sales and Marketing Manager, at Msim-Plastik d.o.o. in Bačka Voda.

Vladimir Đukić ’06 was hired as Senior Education and Training Officer II at INA d.d. in Zagreb.

To submit an update for our next issue, email rebecca@acmt.hr

Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars

Seniors Marko Đukić, Mirela Račić, Melisakaka, Dino Lučan, Maja Matković, Martina Antonelić and Nevena Jokić, were named RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars. This award recognizes excellence in academic achievement. In order to receive this honor, the students must have earned a GPA of 3.85. In addition, their selection was based on other factors complementing their academic achievement, including creative work, independent research, and college, and community service. They were treated to a special celebration dinner at Pergola Restaurant in Dubrovnik, along with their favorite professors, and will receive a special medallion at graduation to recognize their achievement.

Conclusion

Congratulations to the ACMT soccer team, for winning first place in the “Ekonomijada” traditional sports and academic gathering in Sarajevo in April. Andrej Dodik (captain), Petar Drovetak, Dejan Jovanovski, Goran Mičeta, Luka Barrišić, Luka Lujak, Branimir Perić, Mislav Zaloker, and Marko Dobroslavić, beat teams from Sarajevo and Slovenia in a tournament of four games.
My American Dream

The first day on the RIT campus, I was shocked. The campus has 214 buildings. We even had to take buses to get from one place to another. Their “menza” had 20 televisions and a pro jector. Of course they served typical American food, fat and greasy, but oh so delicious.

On Thursday we began to prepare the dinner. We got our own uniforms with our names on them, met our boss and began to do the work in the kitchen – it was big enough to prepare food for 200 people, right on their campus! The atmosphere in the kitchen was so good that I didn’t want to leave. We cleaned zucchini, baked cakes and cooked chicken. And this is how the next two unforgettable days went by.

Friday came and it was time to go out. We bought some beer, through our own secret ways, and went to a Jungle party. Can culture.

Anne in Wonderland

This trip was a big event for me, my first time “preko bare” (across the Atlantic). When Alojz and I arrived in Munich I was shocked by the size of the airplane that would take us to the USA. We took pictures of it and laughed at ourselves. “Oh look at us, just like tourists in Dubrovnik.”

Chicago was our first destination in the USA. We were only supposed to change planes there but we “unfortunately” missed our flight for Rochester. I was so happy, being stuck in the Windy City. My Wonderland experience was just getting started.

Chicago is amazing. It was a sunny day with a lot of wind, of course. We discovered Michigan Avenue. This was a real avenue, not like the small one in Zagreb. There were a lot of trees and hundreds of stores, and crossed by beautiful bridges. We discovered a lot of cool stuff, like the Hard Rock Hotel, Starbucks and Subway. Later that evening we finally landed in Rochester. Maureen Shannon, our friend, met us here at ACMT and at RIT I changed my mind. They are outgoing, friendly, funny, and helpful. They will share everything they have. And they are all excited about coming to Dubrovnik to study abroad.

But the main reason Alojz and I came to Rochester was the Ritz dinner. The beauty of this event is that students organize everything. They prepare, cook and serve food, they make the decorations for the dining room. They are the managers. We served candied pears and sweet potatoes, then the appetizer lemon mint granita. Afterwards we served soup and the main course ribs with grilled shrimp or vegetarian zucchini that we helped prepare in the three days before the dinner.

I am happy that I had a chance to be a part of such a great event, where I learned a lot about American culture, people and customs. Even after a few weeks, after I got back I was still under the spell of this trip. One thing I know for sure is that I am going back – so, anyone with me?

-- Ana Buhin

Embassies and Oil Rigs

Co-op means time for summer “school”

By Andrej Bratun

ACMT’s first generation of IT students have just finished their sophomore year, and are looking forward to their first real work experiences in the field. Contacts with several local IT companies mean that these students will find positions, for example, in IT online business solutions for the hospitality industry.

Others will find positions in the areas of Networking, Database Management, and Programming which they have studied for the past two years.

HSM student Ivana Muhoberac will spend her summer in Dubrovnik, at the Grand Villa Argentina, as an F&B department assistant. “Hotel Operations was my favorite course this year and I hope to build my future career in that area,” she said. “This is an excellent opportunity to make my first step.”

HSM student Mario Sunjić is among the students who have decided that four years of college just isn’t enough – they want even more school in their lives. Mario has applied to a master’s degree program in Marketing and Sales at the Fachhochschule Wienener Neustadt University near Vienna.

“I am looking forward to meeting other international students from all over the world and also spending one semester in Spain as part of my study abroad program.”

Dina Dragicević, Albert Gruber, and Marita Novaković are all heading “down under” to Australia after graduation.

Dina has been hired as a recruitment consultant for Technical Recruiting, a specialist in the mining industry, in Brisbane. Albert got a visa to go along with her, and will be drawing on his contacts with his former co-op employers to find a job in HR.

Marita is planning a long-term move to Australia with her fiancé. “Our ultimate plan is to open up our own business. The job market in Australia is vast, so I see a bright future for myself there,” Marita said. “After an exciting four years at ACMT, I have decided to make the most of my American diploma.”

"Puttin' on the RITz"

HSM freshmen Ana Buhin and Alojz Paver, were selected to represent ACMT at the annual RIT “Puttin’ on the RITz dinner” in March. The Puttin’ on the RITz dinner is a black tie event for 200 to 400 people planned, organized, prepared, and served by students in the International Hospitality and Service Management program. It is a major event on the RIT calendar, as well as within the Rochester community. Ana and Alojz spent an exciting week in Rochester, and wrote these “memoirs” to share from their trip.

The Puttin’ on the RITz dinner is a black tie event for 200 to 400 people planned, organized, prepared, and served by students in the International Hospitality and Service Management program. It is a major event on the RIT calendar, as well as within the Rochester community. Ana and Alojz spent an exciting week in Rochester, and wrote these “memoirs” to share from their trip.
ACMT's Zagreb location will be housed in this historic building (right) on the campus of the Croatian Catholic University for the first year. Look carefully on the left, and you'll see our future permanent home behind the trees. This building will be completely renovated and will eventually become the new ACMT Zagreb.

ACMT student volunteers and racers celebrate on the steps of Sv. Vlaho church.

ACMT spring barbeque is one of the best events of the year... sun, sea, friends and fun. Summer is almost here!

Can you find ACMT in this picture?