RIT/ACMT's New Home:

**ZAGREB CAMPUS MOVING TO BUNDEK**

RIT/ACMT Zagreb is growing – so fast that we need a new, bigger home. Starting in September 2013, Zagreb campus will be located in a brand-new 1300 square meter facility in the ground floor of the new Bundek Centar complex in Novi Zagreb.

The new upscale, modern facility will include student lounges, video conference facilities, an auditorium for up to 100 participants, program library, three computer labs, classrooms and offices. The college building is part of a larger commercial and residential complex that is quickly becoming one of Zagreb's most desirable addresses. Nearby restaurants, supermarkets, bakeries and fitness facilities will help enhance student life, and low cost parking will also be available nearby. The campus is located within walking distance of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Avenue Mall shopping center, and Bundek Park.

For the last two years, RIT/ACMT Zagreb has been housed in part of a building on the campus of the Croatian Catholic University. But now, with the third generation of students about to enroll, and interest in the Information Technology and International Business programs growing, ACMT Zagreb needs a building of its own, explained RIT/ACMT President and Dean Don Hudspeth.

In cooperation with experts from the Rochester campus of RIT, architects and designers are currently planning renovations, landscaping, signage and furniture, getting the new building ready for the third generation of RIT/ACMT Zagreb students.

“This new facility will make it even easier to encourage students from our two Croatia campuses to try a semester exchange at our other campus,” Dean Hudspeth explained. “Internal exchange between our Dubrovnik and Zagreb campuses is something we are looking forward to encouraging.”

STUDENT HONORS AND AWARDS

ALUMNI: A SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE

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On a Saturday afternoon in April, a group of people were standing on the sidelines cheering as soccer players got near the goal. Excitement gripped the field and hearts were beating fast as a shot was made for the goal. Suddenly, loud cheers filled the air as the players hugged each other with joy. Goal! It wasn’t Mario Mandžukić scoring at a Bayern game, but RIT/ACMT students in Dubrovnik playing soccer for charity. Senior Dejan Jovanoski organized a student soccer tournament to help the family of Mihaela Krečak, a 12-year-old girl from Dubrovnik who needs treatment for a brain tumor.

“I’m really glad that the students got together to make a day really fun, and help out a little girl who deserves a chance to live a real long life,” said sophomore Nicole Seymour.

Four student teams competed, while the red team — Dejan Jovanovski, Davor Pištalo, Goran Mičeta, Oliver Milošević and Alojz Paver — won the tournament at the end of a long day.

“A big congratulations to Dejan for organizing this event,” said senior Christina Kusalo, with a smile. “I’m really glad to see that I’m graduating from a school that I can proudly say gives back to the community.

More than 2400 kunas were raised from the sale of entrance tickets and additional private donations. These funds were given to Mihaela’s family, to assist with her treatment.

Foreign languages are truly delicious — just ask students at both Zagreb and Dubrovnik campuses who participated in the 14th annual International Dinner, RIT/ACMT’s tastiest tradition.

From chimichangas, to tiramisu to soufflé, students of French, Spanish, German and Italian languages put on their chef’s hats and got cooking, then gathered for an evening of music, fun, and lots of food. Colorful posters describing the food of each culture decorated the walls, while students and professors tasted everything, and voted for their favorite dishes.

“This is our favorite social gathering through which we promote multicultural experience and multicultural understanding,” said Foreign Languages Coordinator Prof. Nikolina Bozinovic. “This event is an important part of foreign language education and it helps students understand and enjoy more about the cultures of the language that they are studying.”

Winners for best dish at the Dubrovnik campus were Anna Ratžkić, Danijela Malić and Pjero Kusijanović with their Spanish empanadas, while Arta Cungu and Tanja Ganić won Most Original with their Italian style M&M Kit-Kat cake.

In Zagreb, the prize for best dish went to the Italian cannelloni al forno and most original was the German schwarzwälderkirschtorte.
On July 1, 2013, Croatia will become the 28th member of the European Union. While many people in Croatia are proud of this historic and long-awaited event, others are a bit more skeptical. RIT/ACMT students have their own ideas, concerns and hopes for the future of their country, as it moves closer to the rest of Europe.

“Entering the EU represents more opportunities to study and work abroad, less paperwork and bureaucracy and more fun. I am totally positive about that and can’t wait until July 1.”
Dolores Bartolac, junior, Dubrovnik

“Although there are potential benefits for Croatia, the fact that we are a small country with small to no amounts of power or influence, means that we will accept all of the terms asked of us by the union. In turn we will give up a lot of our readily available but at the moment underused resources.”
Davor Matić, sophomore, Zagreb

“Only education and the development of new technologies can make Croatia an equal member of the EU. The creativity of the younger generations will become visible. The Croatian government and country needs to stand by successful businesses and companies which will bring prosperity to Croatia in the future.”
Davor Matić, sophomore, Zagreb

“I believe Croatia should not join the EU. We will not gain any special status in the world. All we will become is a new market which will now be available to all bigger members of EU.”
Kreso Cosić, sophomore, Zagreb

“I feel like Croatia has all the needed natural resources and a great location to survive on its own, but with all the thieves we have running the country, we have made this bad decision of joining the EU. If we can see that the countries who are already members are going through crisis, why would we want to follow their example?”
Tea Garbin, sophomore, Zagreb

“There will be better choices of education for younger generations – bigger options for study abroad”
Dino Herak, freshman, Dubrovnik

“My opinion is that the EU is a great thing for Croatia. I don’t believe the stories that the other EU members want to use Croatia. A lot of new opportunities will be open once we join, like jobs and easier travel between EU countries. We made no mistake saying yes.”
Toni Sučić, freshman, Dubrovnik

“Even though a lot of people think that entering the EU will indicate the beginning of prosperity for Croatia, I doubt it will happen without some change in Croatian mentality. We need to change our work habits to adapt to the EU, which is going to be a problem for some people.”
Ivan Taras, sophomore, Zagreb

“I believe Croatia will gain a lot of financial advantages by joining the EU, as there will be a growth in the Croatian economy as well as new job positions.”
Rino Novaković, sophomore, Zagreb

“I feel that there is no bright side or advantage to Croatia joining the EU. We are joining right when EU is in crisis. Countries like Spain, Cyprus, and many more are close to going bankrupt. EU is a union in which a small country such as Croatia has a lot more to lose, than to gain. Richer members of EU will now for less and cheaper paperwork be able to buy our country - the country we fought for so hard.”
Marin Juran, sophomore, Zagreb

“The EU will be good for some people and bad for others. If you’re competitive, young, and have an education then you can survive, but if you don’t, it’ll be harder to find a job. Products will get more expensive, but everything else, like salaries, will stay the same.”
Anonymous, Dubrovnik

“Croatia is entering the EU not because the majority of people want it, but because of political interests. Croatia has certain natural wealth, such as fresh water, which will become more and more important in the future, and this is where the major foreign powers see their interest in our little country.”
Marko Bilic, sophomore, Zagreb
Hanne Marie Edvardsen Jelavić ’12 was recently hired as Green Flag coordinator for the Foundation for Environmental Education, FEE Norway. She is also currently enrolled in a master’s degree program in Development Management at the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway. “Both my studies and my job are online,” Hanne said, “so I am located in Split, Croatia, Kristiansand in Norway, and on the Holland America Line ship Ryndam, cruising the Caribbean in the winter months and Mediterranean during spring and summer.”

Daniel Cizmić ’00 opened his own business, Plura Travel, in Dubrovnik.

Svjetlana Sarović ’10 was recently hired as Export Manager at the 13.jul Plantaze vineyards in Podgorica, Montenegro.

Latif Haxhibrahimi ’09 was recently hired as project field officer, in the Office for International Cooperation and Projects, for the municipality of Ulcinj in Montenegro.

Andrijana Gavran (Galic) ’06 was recently hired as National Controller for Southeast Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme at the Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds in Zagreb.

Kornelija Brown ’08 was recently promoted to Account Manager with Corvirtus, LLC, a consulting and business services firm, in Colorado Springs, Colorado (USA).

Lea Stjepanović ’08 was hired as department manager for C&A Moda Trgovina at City Colosseum in Slavonski Brod, Croatia. She is also the owner of her own bridal shop, Lea Exclusive.

Ante Beželić ’10 was hired as human resources assistant at Zagreb Holding, in the department of water conservation and management, in Zagreb.

Velimir Luksic ’02 was promoted to banquet manager at the Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club, in Durham, North Carolina, USA. He was named Manager of the Year in 2010, and has been named Manager of the Quarter three times, most recently this spring. “I have been with this company since I graduated from RIT/ACMT, and there is a superb management team and outstanding work environment,” he said.

RIT/ACMT graduates gathered at the Zagreb campus in March to share their experiences, network with each other and offer advice and insight to current students. The event was part of an ongoing series of professional development gatherings for alumni and current students, called “Eight People for Eight Minutes,” hosted by Ana Jarak, RIT/ACMT Alumni Association President, and RIT/ACMT President and Dean Don Hudspeth.

Mirko Gudelj ’06 started off the panel, discussing his current position as Custom Development Manager with Micros Fidelio. He helped found the company, which makes an innovative smart phone application for an organized stay at a hotel. The app makes booking an accommodation or organizing travel a piece of cake.

Next, Renato Librić ’01, talked about his work with RED Star Ltd. developing a website and smart phone app called “gopping.it” and the adventure of starting up a business. Gopping, it is a simple tool that helps customers buy gifts for anyone, anywhere and in any currency around the world.

Selma Audajčić Tiljlar ’01 talked about her position as head of unit work at THT. She presented some interesting statistics about the current telecommunications market, including the fact that that Smart phones represent only 20% of the market in Croatia, but are growing at a rate of 10-15% per year. She added that her company’s goal is to “digitalize” Croatia in the near future.

Edin Sarač ’02, a free-lance telecommunications consultant, also discussed the growing use of smart phones in Croatia and shared his worldwide experience within the last six years in the telecommunications industry.

Ana Samaržija ’03, currently head of Marketing and PR at Citroen, Croatia, explained the close relationship that has been established between the auto company and the Croatian Hockey club, Medvescak, which helps create a positive vibe around the Citroen car brand in the Croatian market. This successful relationship has increased the marketing and promotion success of the Citroen brand in Croatia, she said.

Adela Marković ’07 moved the discussion towards the hospitality industry, by sharing her career path in various positions, both working for others and recently starting her own business. After gaining experience as director of a resort on the Croatian coast, she moved to Hotel Rebro, where she helped create a program called Pleasure Seekers Croatia. PS Croatia deals with gastro-culinary experience, where small businesses and unique traits of Croatian cuisine are tied together to enrich tourists dining experiences. Currently, she is the owner of Mašta, a sales and marketing consulting firm for the hospitality industry.

Maja Jukić ’04 concluded the panel by sharing her experience in the hospitality industry and her current job as regional marketing specialist at 3M. Her dynamic and interesting position, focused on providing technical supplies to Croatian hospitals, combines marketing with medicine, and ties perfectly into the tourism industry in Croatia, since tourists are also among the patients.

The relaxed, informative and dynamic evening was very useful not only for the participants, but also for current students who are looking for work experience. The friendly faces of alumni contacts and their real life advice is certainly priceless.
By Reanna Brajković

A few mornings ago, while reading the daily newspaper, I came across an interesting sentence: “To be a success, you just need to be happy with your life choices.” This made me think. All my life, I have been trying to improve myself and be content as a person. I have made various decisions, but one in particular had a strong influence on my personality: my journey to South Africa.

Last year, after six years of volunteering in various European countries, I decided to take my passion and experience outside Europe. I found an organization for abused women and children in Johannesburg, booked an airplane ticket and moved to South Africa for three months. I went there alone, without big plans and expectations. All I wanted was to help people and give them some of my free time. As Mother Teresa once said “We cannot do great things, only small things with great love” and that was exactly what I hoped to do.

Three months in Africa flew by quickly. I cannot say it was easy and safe, but it was worth it. The first month was the hardest- I was even thinking of quitting and going back home. But as I was never a quitter, I decided to stay and seize the experience no matter how hard it got. When I reconciled with the fact that I was on my own, my whole experience started to change.

During my African adventure, I worked on a couple of projects: providing food for HIV positive people, feeding and cooking for homeless people, teaching children in schools, taking care of babies and abused women. However, most of the time, I was volunteering in a kindergarten in the town of Diepsloot, where I was the only volunteer in the whole village. From the beginning, I was very well accepted and I built strong relationship with all the children. The kindergarten had 90 children and 4 teachers. They did not speak English at all, but that was not a problem for us- we all laughed in the same language. Before I came to South Africa, I thought it would be hard for me to adjust to the physical conditions, but after a while I overcame this. We did not have plates, glasses or cutlery, so we ate with our hands. Children would sit around me on the floor and I was hand feeding every child- one by one. There were days when we only had bread and water for breakfast. We had to drink water in a group; all together sharing one big glass. During my last week in Diepsloot, we did not have water at all. Even though life in Africa is difficult, we were all very happy and I woke up with a smile every morning.

After my African experience, I started seeing things in a completely different way. I am much more aware of the value of life. Sometimes, we all forget how happy we are. We do not appreciate enough the fact that we have parents who are taking care of us, our education, beds with sheets and blankets, diverse and healthy food, fresh water and clean toilets, clothes, toys and safe streets. Even though we are aware of problems that people around the world are facing, we somehow think it cannot happen to us. Even I thought that way and did not bother myself that much with value of life, until I lived through it. Being part of this, made me even more grateful for what I have at home.

My education at RIT/ACMT taught me that teamwork allows common people to attain uncommon results. We should never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. As Dolores Huerta once said “Giving kids clothes and food is one thing, but it is much more important to teach them that other people besides themselves are important, and that the best thing they can do with their lives is to use them in the service of other people”. Finally- maybe I will not save the world. Maybe I will not change it. But, I am trying my best. That makes me happy. And that makes me successful.
RIT/ACMT’s 13th annual Career Education Day brought students face to face with representatives of some of the region’s leading businesses, to get an inside look at corporate culture, hiring processes, and opportunities for advancement in today’s world of work. In addition to listening to company presentations and asking questions, many students applied for and completed job interviews in search of employment.

RIT/ACMT has longstanding relationships with many of the leading companies in the region, who often employ our students and graduates for coop and permanent positions. This year’s Career Education Day included representatives of the following companies and industries:

**TOURISM and HOSPITALITY**
- Hilton Hotels and Resorts
- Valamar Hotels and Resorts
- Radisson Blu
- Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group
- Starwood Hotels

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
- RTL Television
- HSM Informatika
- Carnet
- Ekobit
- TIS
- Apis IT
- Micros Fidelio
- Phobs
- Tim Kabel

**RETAIL**
- Coca Cola Hellenic beverages
- AVIS Budget car rental
- Henkel

- Metro Cash and Carry Croatia
- Agrokor
- INA
- Kaufland

**BUSINESS SERVICES**
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- P&G (Procter and Gambel)
- Moj Posao

CED was held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Zagreb and at the Valamar Hotel President in Dubrovnik. The halls, elevators and meeting rooms were bustling with company representatives and students in their best business suits and high heels, resumes in hand.

As President and Dean Don Hudspeth emphasized at the opening ceremony, it is important for students to grow and learn outside the classroom, and events such as CED are of great value in preparing them for the world of work. The Dean’s welcome was followed at both events by a short and entertaining student-produced video showing the humorous side of student life at RIT/ACMT. The Dubrovnik campus video was created by Nikolina Lazarevic and Lucija Marinov, while the Zagreb campus video was created by Mislav Pesek.

Many students found CED a great opportunity to prepare themselves for the working world, and find out more about which careers would suit them best.

“I got to know key facts about various companies which helped me figure out the ideal candidate they want,” said first-year Zagreb campus student Diana Herakovic.

“CED was a great new experience, I am glad I got the chance to participate in real life interactions with various companies,” added second-year student Martin Rodin.
Zagreb Campus Students Win Innovation Challenge

By Ena Paponja

Zagreb campus sophomore students Tea Garbin and Jana Culjak recently won fourth place in the Henkel Innovation Challenge, an international business competition sponsored by the Henkel company. The assignment this year was to create an innovative product or technology for an existing Henkel brand in 2050. Tea and Jana designed an innovative hair coloring system that they called “GC Poof.”

“It’s a hair color product for year 2050,” they explained. “It is a bag which a consumer puts on her head and creates pressure by sticking edges to the scalp. The dye is attached to the inside of the bag. The color activates when the temperature inside the bag is raised with a hair dryer.

Because of the sublimation process the whole procedure is done after 10 minutes and there is no need to wash your hair, you just have to brush it.

Another great thing is that the color doesn’t leave stains on your skin because the dye is in a gas form.” Tea and Jana competed against hundreds of teams from across Europe. They came up with this idea after thorough research, based on a similar process which is used today for dying clothes.

“We were so surprised and happy when we found out that we made it to top 10, because we were competing against hundreds of teams from across Europe. They came up with this idea after thorough research, based on a similar process which is used today for dying clothes.

“We were so surprised and happy when we found out that we made it to top 10, because we were competing against 467 teams from Croatia,” Tea said. “It was a great experience.”

Faculty Scholarship

Professor of mathematics Dr. Ambroz Ćivljak co-authored a book titled “General Integral Identities and Related Inequalities (Arising from Weighted Montgomery Identity).” It was published in March as a monograph in Inequalities 5, by Element Publishers, Zagreb.

Professor Kristijan Tabak was elected to the Croatian academic title of lecturer (predavac).

Professor Nikolina Božinović gave an interactive lecture at Gimnazija Dubrovnik to the professors of classical and modern foreign languages in March, titled “Grammar learning strategies and grammatical competence in German and Spanish as foreign language.” She also gave a presentation at the 27th International Linguistic Conference organized by The Croatian Applied Linguistics Society (CALS) about Standard Languages and Sociolects in the 21st century, in Dubrovnik in April.

English professor Rebecca Charry gave a presentation at the 21st Annual Conference of the Croatian Association of Teachers of English (HUPE) in Opatija in April. Her presentation was titled, “We Love Literature: English Poems for Learning and Enjoyment.”

Computer Science professor Elizabeth Lawley recently gave an invited talk at the University of Bergen, Norway, titled “Playful Pedagogy.” She also co-organized a workshop on “Designing Gamification” at the upcoming ACM CHI conference in Paris, and had a paper accepted for the Games, Learning & Society Conference in Madison, Wisconsin (USA) in June.

Winning Students Head to Budapest for Business Competition

Zagreb campus International Business students Tomislav Cvetko, Josip Lučić and Christian Petersen have made it to the Top 10 in the INA Freshhh business competition. Competing against 887 teams from 60 different countries, the RIToil team is currently in 4th place, and will travel to Budapest, Hungary, at the end of May to compete in the international finals.

According to INA, part of the MOL group, Freshhh is an international online competition held each year for students. The goal is to introduce the world of oil industry to young people of different expertise and education, and interest them for this dynamic field.

As part of the competition, students manage a virtual oil company, making decisions based on both technical knowledge, and good business management. They start up a new oil corporation from the beginning, decide on research and development projects to find rich reservoirs, build refineries for different products and find the best product portfolio to gain profit.
Just as another academic year has flown by, one of the most exciting college events turned the corner, ran around the Orlando fountain and back in front of Saint Blaise Church, as RIT/ACMT’s second annual Student Sports Day and Fun Run was held in on the Stradun of the Dubrovnik Old Town in April.

RIT/ACMT students and volunteers mingled with tourists, local elementary and high school students, and sports enthusiasts from other local universities for a day of physical activity and fun, including basketball, rock climbing, Zumba dance, gymnastics and, of course, the traditional foot race down the Stradun.

Four races were held for elementary and high school boys and girls. Delighted locals and tourists cheered and clapped as the children flew by.

On the other side of Stradun, in front of Saint Blaise church, the University of Dubrovnik and Dubrovnik International University organized a Zumba dance routine, while local dance and gymnastics clubs also performed, including RIT/ACMT sophomore Izabella Nock, who showed that our students know more than how to use Minitab, they can dance like an earthquake!

The famous rope climb and rappel down the Dubrovnik town clock tower was one of the most popular events of the day. Several RIT/ACMT students were brave enough to join the climbers, including freshman Leina Delić. “At first the wall didn’t seem high at all and I wasn’t scared, but as soon as I got up there and looked down I became a little nervous,” she said. “When I was going down it wasn’t bad after all.”

Senior Hanan Bešović hosted the event as MC and announcer. As always his contagious smile and laugh added only more excitement.

Three hours, 300 litres of water and 600 donuts later, students went home in sweat and smiles, some bringing home a big ACMT Fun Run Trophy and everyone bringing home healthier lifestyles.