

"We have never seen women in power like this. It is new to our eyes. Whatever the post, it is a great move to develop women's leadership."

– Rediet Kefale, Ethiopian women's rights campaigner

The winners of the prestigious Croatian Women of Influence Awards and Future Leader Awards extend our congratulations to the 2019 award winners.

We're thrilled to welcome you to the club.







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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CAROLINE SPIVAK

Welcome to our fourth annual Croatian Women of Influence and Future Leader Awards gala. Our laureates join us from as far away as Australia and the United States and more closely from Bosna & Hercegovina, Croatia and Switzerland. Their diverse and world-leading accomplishments are drawn from academia, arts and culture, business, leadership and innovation, philanthropy and science and technology. Congratulations to our 19 accomplished leaders who bring our overall winner total to 95 world-wide winners.

This year the Croatian Women's Network/Mreža Hrvatskih Žena celebrates five years of connecting, celebrating and championing Croatian women the world over. It seems like just yesterday that the idea for the network formed itself from concept into a reality that counts almost 500 members across the globe. Thank you for your participation and for your generosity of spirit in nominating and introducing us to more than 200 women for these awards. We are privileged to have the opportunity to get to know them and celebrate their incredible accomplishments. With your help we are committed to continuing to uncover those diamonds in the rough – the unheralded heroes drawn from all corners of the world.

In a rapidly changing world I invite you all to continue do all we can to remove barriers to women's success and to unlock their full potential. Let's be the positive change we'd like to see. After all, we're here to celebrate, champion and connect our way to our collective success.

Thank you for sharing your time and joining us.

Caroline Spivak Founder, Croatian Women's Network/Mreža Hrvatskih Žena



Zagreb, 6. ožujka 2019.

Drage dobitnice nagrada "Uljecăjne hrvatske žene" i "Buduće liderice",

i ove sam godine, s velikim zadovoljstvom prihvatila pokroviteljstvo nad međunarodnom konferencijom "Napredak žena, napredak ekonomije. Ostvari potencijal!", želeći time dati potporu održavanju skupa koji pridonosi položaju i uljecaju žena u Republici Hrvatskoj i svijetu.

Od srca vam čestitam na mnogobrojnim uspjesima ostvarenima u različitim područjima djelovaňja od Europe, Sjediňjenih Američkih Država, Južne Amerike do Austalíje. Među vama su ugledne poduzetnice, znanstvenice, umjetnice i žene koje predano humanitarnim radom djelúju u Hrvatskoj i izvan ňjenih granica.

Vi ste veleposlanice naš zemlje u svijetu i hvala vam što dobrim prinijerima ulječete na bolju svakodnevicu te promičete ekonomska, politička i društvena prava žena.

Kao počasnoj dobitnici nagrade "Uljecăjne hrvatske žene" želja mi'je zăjednički pridonljeti uključivanju žena u'javni, profesionalni i politički život. Moramo pokazati kako smo doista zrelo demokratsko društvo u kojemu istinska ravnopravnost i'jednakost žena u svim područjima života nisu samo prazne riječi, već naša stvarnost.

Osigurati punu ravnopravnost žena u društvu važno je zbog nas samih, kako se sutra naše kćeri ne bi morale suočavati s istim problemima.

Čestitam vam Međunarodni dan žena, naš praznik prigodom kojeg slavimo afirmaciju i ravnopravnost žena dilje svijeta.

S poštovanjem,





R E P U B L I K A H R V A T S K A SREDIŠNJI DRŽAVNI URED ZA HRVATE IZVAN REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE DRŽAVNI TAJNIK

Poštovane dame, cijenjeni organizatori,

ostvarenje i uspjeh svakog čovjeka nalazi korijenje u svojoj obitelji. Snaga žene, i njena osobna i profesionalna postignuća znače sretniju obitelj, sigurnije i stabilnije društvo i potencijal neiscrpnih mogućnosti. Na gotovo svim jezicima svijeta domovina je ženskog rodamajka, hraniteljica, njegovateljica, ona koja čuva ognjište. Stoga želim potaknuti sve Hrvatice, gdje god živjele i koji god životni poziv odabrale, da nikada ne posustanu u održavanju i njegovanju samosvijesti, svojeg porijekla i nadasve pripadnosti hrvatskom nacionalnom biću.

Jedna od osnovnih zadaća Središnjeg državnog ureda za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske je očuvanje hrvatske kulture, tradicije i baštine, jačanje našeg hrvatskog identiteta i snaženje naših međusobnih veza. Mnogi naši projekti realizirani su upravo zahvaljujući trudu i predanosti žena, naše hrvatske zajednice diljem svijeta ponajprije počivaju na požrtvovnosti Hrvatica koje nesebičnom ljubavlju čuvaju i pronose hrvatske vrijednosti.

Suvremeni koncept vodstva transformiran je upravo uključivanjem žena na vodeća mjesta na poslovnoj sceni. Suvremeno poslovno okruženje, cjelokupno tržište, znanost, kultura, oblikovani su ženama. Podupirati žene znači podupirati budućnost društva. Stvaranje uvjeta za iskorištavanje punog potencijala mladih generacija, naročito žena, temeljni je smjer kojim moramo ići ako želimo sačuvati našu povijest, naš identitet pred izazovima globalizacije. Upravo su žene pozvane na to da spajaju ono što tek dolazi s korijenima.

Žene su taj most prema budućnosti, a Središnji državni ured za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske podupire ih dajući im svoju podršku. Čestitam svima, a posebno dobitnicama koje njeguju i usmjeravaju hrvatsku globalnu javnost na presudnu ulogu i važnost žena.



Trg hrvatskih velikana 6, 10000 Zagreb, Republika Hrvatska



HRVATSKA MATICA ISELJENIKA

RAVNATELJ

Poštovane dame, cijenjeni uzvanici, organizatori i gosti,

drago mi je što mogu u ime Hrvatske matice iseljenika i svoje osobno ime čestitati dobitnicama nagrade Utjecajne hrvatske žene i Buduće liderice 2019. koje dodjeljuje Mreža hrvatskih žena.

Iskrene čestitke predsjednici Mreže hrvatskih žena Caroline Spivak, glavnoj organizatorici konferencije "Napredak žena, napredak ekonomije. Ostvari potencijal", koja se pod našim pokroviteljstvom odvija u Hrvatskoj matici iseljenika.

Ponosni smo što smo ugostili uspješne Hrvatice iz cijeloga svijeta i iskreno im zahvaljujemo na njihovu doprinosu promociji Lijepe Naše i povezivanju Hrvata izvan domovine s Hrvatskom. Želimo im i dalje uspješan rad na podizanju svijesti o značenju ženskog poduzetništva i stvaralaštva, poglavito kad je riječ o bivanju dijelom vizije moderne Hrvatske.

Mreža hrvatskih žena prepoznala je važnost i ulogu žene u današnjem globaliziranom društvu i svojim angažmanom aktivno obilježava Međunarodni dan žena slaveći uspjehe koje su Hrvatice i iseljenice hrvatskih etničko-kulturnih korijena postigle na društvenom, umjetničkom, ekonomskom i političkom području.

Koristim ovu prigodu da svim pripadnicama ljepšeg spola od srca čestitam Međunarodni dan žena!



Gradonlnačelnik Grada Zagreb MILAN BANDIĆ



8. ožujka, 2019.

Uvažene dame,

drage dobitnice nagrada "Utjecajne hrvatske žene" i "Buduće liderice" od srca vam čestitam na ostvarenome uspjehu!

Hvala vam što predanim radom, odvažnošću i snagom duha svoje ideje provodite u djelo!

Vi ste liderice danas, svakako i sutra! Budite uzor i podrška mladim ženama diljem svijeta! Nastavite i nadalje kroz Mrežu hrvatskih žena raditi na podizanju svijesti o važnosti ženskoga poduzetničkog duha i stvaralaštva!

Svim pripadnicama ljepšeg spola te svim nagrađenim i utjecajnim hrvatskim ženama i svim budućim lidericama sretan Međunarodni dan žena!

Gradonačelnik Grada Zagreba, Milan Bandić

BAŠĆANSKA Ploča

KING ZVONIMIRA

Baška tablet is one of the first monuments containing an inscription in the Croatian recension of the Church slavonic language, dating from c. 1100.



Honoring the Past. Celebrating the Present. Advancing into the Future.



Throughout Croatia's history, courageous and strong women have played an integral role in inspiring action, preserving culture, religion and heritage and even bravely protecting our borders – just as they do today. In creating the award, our goal was to honor the heritage that binds us and to recognize the strength and tenacity of our Croatian Women of Influence.

The Croatian word for woman is žena. The symbol for the first letter "ž" in the ancient and original Croatian Glagolitic alphabet that played an important role in Croatian history is in fact the symbol that shapes the form of the award. It was made in Canada of aluminium and stone.

he Glagolitic alphabet (known as Glagolitsa) is the oldest known Slavic alphabet. It was created in the 9th century by Saint Cyril, a Byzantine monk from Thessaloniki. He and his brother, Saint Methodius, were sent by the Byzantine Emperor Michael III in 863 to Great Moravia to spread Christianity among the Slavs in the area. The brothers decided to translate liturgical books into the Old Slavic language that was understandable to the general population, but as the words of that language could not be easily written by using either the Greek or Latin alphabets, Cyril decided to invent a new script, Glagolitic, which he based on the language of the Macedonian Slavs from the Thessaloniki region.

After the deaths of Cyril and Methodius, the Glagolitic alphabet ceased to be used in Moravia, but their students continued to propagate it in the west and south. The Glagolitic alphabet was preserved only by the Croats, using it from the 12th to the 20th century, mostly in liturgy.

The name was not coined until many centuries after its creation, and comes from the Old Church Slavonic glagol "utterance" (also the origin of the Slavic name for the letter G). The verb glagoliti means "to speak" It has been conjectured that the name glagolitsa developed in Croatia around the 14th century and was derived from the word glagolity, applied to adherents of the liturgy in Slavonic.

Croats using the Glagolitic alphabet were the only nation in Europe who was given a special permission by Pope Innocent IV (in 1248) to use their own language and this script in liturgy. More precisely, this permission had formally been given to the bishop Philip of Senj. However, special care accorded by the Vatican to the Glagolitic liturgy in subsequent centuries (even by publishing several Glagolitic missals in Rome), shows that this privilege applied to all Croatian lands using the Glagolitic liturgy, mostly along the coast. As is well known, the Latin had been the privileged language in religious ceremonies in the Catholic Church until the 2nd Vatican Synod held in 1962–1965, when it was decided to allow vernacular national languages to be used in the Catholic liturgy instead of Latin. It is interesting that even today the Glagolitic liturgy is used in some Croatian churches.

Croatian Women of Influence Award JUDGES PANEL

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mr. sc. SNJEŽANA JURIŠIĆ, prof.

Head of the Department of Culture Croatian Heritage Foundation

ANA MANDAC

Snježana Jurišić is Head of the Department of Culture at the Croatian Heritage Foundation. Her key priorities include supporting, organizing and promoting culture and cultural creativity development together with related educational, publishing, ecological, sporting and tourism programs designed to strengthen linkages with the Croatian diaspora, Croatian minority communities and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal of this portfolio is the preservation of Croatia's cultural identity throughout the diaspora while connecting Croatians around the world with their homeland. Through her work Snježana supports the Croatian Heritage Foundation in achieving its mission to preserve Croatia's cultural identity, native language and traditions among Croats living outside of the Republic of Croatia.



Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Entreprenuership & Craft, Republic of Croatia

Since November 2016, Ana Mandac has served as Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts and is Assistant to the Directorate for Entrepreneurship and Crafts. From 2006 to 2016, Ana was a highly successful entrepreneur and owner of a consultancy specializing in the preparation, organization and submission of tenders to secure project funding from EU funds ("From Idea to Implementation"). She was responsible for the implementation of educational programs "Strengthening Human Potential at Local and Regional Levels and Effective Preparation and Use of EU funds" in seven counties in the Republic of Croatia over five years. Ana successfully completed the evaluation and analysis of projects for the Republic of Croatia. Ana served as an external member of the Committee for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities in the Croatian Parliament (2012–2015) and Chair and Deputy Chair of the Supervisory Board of Badel 1962 d.d., Zagreb (2009–2012).



KAJA PAVLINIĆ

Student

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb CWol Future Leaders Award Winner 2017

Kaja is pursuing her Computer Science BA at the University of Zagreb, but her interests extend to community-oriented activities and international affairs. She has won first, second and third place at American Computer Science League. In 2014, she was selected for Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellow-ship program in the US, becoming an US Department of State alumni. Since then, she participated at various youth conferences, some of them being YLTE 2015 in Bratislava and Global-In Fellowship 2016 in Berlin. She has won a Future Leader award by Croatian Women's Network in 2016 and an award by Cosmopolitan Croatia. She is a founder of a renewable energy startup Tinja and is currently also managing an anti-corruption project Integritas, funded by the US Embassy Zagreb. In 2017, she was a speaker at several conferences, a mentor at Global-In Fellowship 2017 and became a member of the Youth Council of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

Čestitke dobitnicama 2019. godine! "Zena stoji kao kapija, na izlazu kao i na ulazu ovog svijeta" - Ivo Andrić

Nastavite dalje uzdignute glave, ne samo kao majka, žena, već i osoba poštovanja vrijedna. U ovo doba svega negativnog što nas okruzuje budite stupovi koji se odupiru svim vremenskim nepogodama.

Suzana Flanz -

Croatian Women of Influence Award Winner 2018 Category: Business

Future Leader Award WINNER

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JELENA LARA MARINKOVIĆ

Country: Republic of Croatia

Jelena Lara Marinković is pursuing her BA degree in Mathematics at the University of Zagreb. Since starting high school she has been active in debate club which immensely shaped her interests ranging from social systems and ecology to the use and development of artificial intelligence. As a member of the national debating team of Croatia she has competed in various tournaments throughout Europe. In 2018 Jelena Lara won the National debating competition. She is an active member of the Croatian debate society where she serves as an adjudicator and coach. Jelena Lara is currently enrolled in a program that teaches young people about green politics of the EU: EGAT 2019. Her participation at various youth conferences made her realize that such events can have an important impact on young people to create a better future. This lead to Jelena Lara joining forces with two colleagues from Slovenia who together are in the process of organizing a conference specifically for high school students focusing on raising awareness of the importance of environmental sustainability and protection.



Croatian Women of Influence Award WINNERS

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DANIJELA BALIKIĆ

CEO, Orange & Green, The Innovation Company Category: Entrepreneurship Country: Republic of Croatia/ United States of America

Danijela is the CEO of Orange & Green, The Innovation Company. An exceptionally talented innovator driven by integrity, intelligence, and energy to move forward. Her personal dedication, as well as her passion for development and innovation, is second to none. Danijela is definitely a superwoman that shifts the Universe, a soul toucher and is an inexhaustible source of wisdom. She created the International Gold medal awarded natural nutritional supplement IMUNOALFA – vitamins made out of goat and horse milk with additional Mediterranean herbs, which boosts the immune system and prevents allergies. A completely new vitamin and a new category all together. Danijela reaffirms her faith in the possibility of creating positive change through innovation as a female entrepreneur, focused on export and conquering the global market with new and innovative Croatian products.



DAMJANA DOMANOVAC

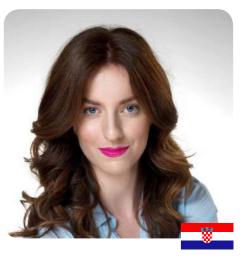
Founder & Publisher PLACE2GO Magazine Director, PLACE2GO Tourism Trade Show CEO PLACE2DESIGN Category: Entrepreneurship Country: Republic of Croatia

Damjana Domanovac was born in Zagreb. Following the completion of her studies in Zagreb she worked briefly as a Registrar in Samobor. In 1995 she moved to private enterprise and founded her company, resulting in the new profession of wedding planner being launched in Croatia. Damjana is also involved with the organization of wedding fairs and the publishing of wedding magazines. In 2008, she sold her entire wedding-focused enterprise to Croatia's largest publishing house, Adria Media. At that point moves her focus to the tourism industry. Damjana publishes the tourist magazine PLACE2GO which in addition to Croatia, produces a franchise edition, for distribution in Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Slovenia and Serbia. Since 2012, she has organized the largest tourism fair in Croatia PLACE2GO, hosted annually in March in Zagreb. Active in the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, Damjana is President of the Franchise Association.

SANJA DRAKULIĆ

Actor, Casting Director and CEO, Duart European Actors Platform Category: Arts & Culture Country: Republic of Croatia

After living in Rijeka, Split and Osijek, in 2010, Sanja Drakulić moved to Zagreb to enroll into the Masters of Arts program of the Academy of Dramatic Arts at the University of Zagreb. In 2013. she attended Sarajevo's Talent Campus, where she met casting director, Timka Grahić, with whom she works on the movie "A Perfect Day" in 2014, providing arrangements for six Croatian actors. This led to the launch of Duart European Actors Platform was established – Europe's first online database of actors. The platform is a connector allowing for the search for actors while also providing actors to promote their work, seek out available jobs and establish professional communication. Along with her entrepreneurial endeavors, Sanja continues to act, work as a drama teacher at Zagreb Youth Theatre, and as a TV host on Klasik TV. She is a frequent keynote speaker.



Izv. prof. dr. sc. NATAŠA DRVENKAR

Associate Professor and Vice-Dean for External Cooperation, International Relations and Projects, J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Economics in Osijek **Category: Entrepreneurship Country: Republic of Croatia**

Nataša Drvenkar is the Vice–Dean for External Cooperation, International Relations and Projects at J. J. Storssmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Economics in Osijek where is is also an Associate Professor. Although born in Zemun, Republic of Serbia, in October 1992, during the Croatian War of Independence, Nataša and her family moved to Croatia. Her main areas of interest include economic growth and development, industrial policy and regional policy. She has built strong professional relationships with academic and business communities through a number of joint projects. She maintains close cooperation with the Croatian Economic Association, the Croatian Employers' Association through training programs involving the most promising students and innovative student training with the help of employers of five Slavonian counties and the Croatian Chamber of Commerce and regional development agencies of the Slavonian county. "To empower, motivate and inspire students to achieve more" is her personal and professional mission.





JASENKA GAJDOŠ KLJUSURIĆ, Ph.D., MBA

Professor, Department of Process Engineering, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb Category: Science & Technology Country: Republic of Croatia

Jasenka Gajdoš Kljusurić has been a professor in the Department of Process Engineering at the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology of the University of Zagreb since June 1996. Since 2011, she has served as the head of the Laboratory for Measurement, Regulation and Automation. A graduate engineer of food technology, she is and a nutritionist with an MBA in Agri business. She advances her knowledge and expertise teaching in Croatian and English at leading scientific and educational institutions in Germany and the USA. She has written and published more than 100 scientific papers and has authored two scripts and six chapters in various books. She is involved in various national and international projects promoting the practical application of science through technological/professional projects for both public and/ or the private sector. She is a member of the Sector Council and the Croatian Mensa Presidency. For more than 20 years, she has been a singer in the Ciril-Metod's choir, nurturing the liturgical singing of Greek-Catholics.



VIKTORIJA KNEŽEVIĆ

Founder, Prospectus Association and online portal Ocijeni Me (Evaluate me) Category: Leadership & Innovation Country: Republic of Croatia

Viktorija Knežević is a successful entreprenuer and lawyer hailing from Dubrovnik where she has built one of the largest legal practices in that city, serving local and international clients. Through her professional association, Prospectus, Viktorija has initiated numerous projects with the goal of advancing communities, expanding entrepreneurship and incepting creative ideas. A key innovation of which is the launch of the online portal Ocijeni Me, meaning "evaluate me" which allows the general public to write up their experiences when dealing with public servants. Akin to a Trip Advisor or Bookings.com client experience portal this, first-of-its-kind public testimonial site could eventually have a positive impact on public administration and services – funded by tax dollars and provided to citizens. Driven by her life's motto, "*Fortune favours the bold*", Viktoria is an inspiration to us all.

ANKICA KOVAČ, Ph.D., MEng. AE.

Associate Professor and Head of Power Engineering Laboratory, Department of Energy, Power Engineering and Environment, University of Zagreb Category: Leadership & Innovation Country: Republic of Croatia

Ankica Kovač, is Head of Power Engineering Laboratory, at the Department of Energy, Power Engineering, and Environment at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture in Croatia. Her scientific research includes renewable energy sources and hydrogen economy, i.e. hydrogen technologies including hydrogen production, storage, distribution, and utilization in fuel cells. Ankica designed Croatia's first hydrogen powered bicycle and the first Croatian hydrogen refuelling station. As this is an original and innovative design of hydrogen refuelling station it was protected as intellectual property on national (trademark) and international level (design). She has authored and co-authored numerous scientific papers and participates as reviewer for prestigeous international journals. She is a guest editor of the International Journal of Hydrogen Energy. Ankica is Croatia's representative on the Executive Committee of The Technology Collaboration Programme on Advanced Fuel Cells (AFC TCP).



BILJANA LOVRINOVIĆ

Founder and CEO, Equus Group Brand and Marketing Consultancy, llc, (USA) Founder, Galop Digital (BiH) Category: Entrepreneurship Country: Bosnia & Hercegovina/ United States of America

Biljana is an accomplished marketing and branding expert. She is the owner of Equus Group, llc based in Eastlake (suburb of Cleveland) Ohio and owner of Galop Digital, a digital solutions company based in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Biljana's area of focus for the last 15 years has been in the field of marketing and communications. She has international experience working with numerous corporations, startups and small businesses. Biljana graduated in 2005 with BA from Kent State University. She is the recipient of the 40 Under 40 award conferred by the Association of Croatian American Professionals and serves as it's Cleveland Chapter President. In July 2018 she was recognized by Global Cleveland as one of the North East Ohio International 50 business leaders for their achievements in three areas: innovation, impact and inclusion. Currently she serves as a board member of Lake County Port and Economic Development Authority.





Prim. Ph.D. dr. sc. ULLA MARTON, MD

Gynecologist and Gynecological endrochronologist Category: Science & Technology Country: Republic of Croatia

Ulla Marton has a subspecality in gynecological endrochronology and is a remarkable woman in all the aspects of her life, professional and private. Being born and brought up in a family of doctors, it was only natural for her to pursue the same path. She did that with such dedication, will of excelling in her call as gynecologist that she is wide know and respected among her colleagues and her name is echos throughout the women's community of Croatia. Highly respected for her skills, she posses a limitless empathy towards people, understanding all the aspect of life and challenges, always having in mind that being a woman and a mother demands sacrifice and stamina which far too often is taken by granted in today's world. A dedicated mother, sister, daughter and friend, Ulla always finds time to help those in need through her dedication to charitable works.



KATICA PERINAC

Author and Teacher, Croatian Language, Holy Family Primary School Bell Park Category: Leadership & Innovation Country: Australia

Katica Perinac, since her arrival in Australia in 1978, has been an active member of the Croatian community in the state of Victoria. She is a teacher of Croatian Language at the Victorian School of Languages - since 1980 and a teacher of Croatian Language at Holy Family Primary School Bell Park in Geelong since 1985. For the last 25 years Katica has been a Learning Diversity Leader at Holy Family Primary School caring for students with disabilities. She is a former President of the Croatian Language Teachers' Association in Victoria and has been a member since 1996. Katica is the author of the Croatian Language program from Prep to grade six for the Holy Family School and has authored and co-authored several Croatian Language workbooks for the Victorian School of Languages. Katica was a member of delegations from the State of Victoria in 2008, 2012 and 2017 to the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia with the aim of establishing a Teacher Assistant program and gaining financial support for the only Croatian Language Program integrated into a mainstream curriculum at the Holy Family Bell Park, Geelong since 1978. She was awarded recognition from the state of Victoria in 2003 for her contribution to the preservation of the Croatian Language and identity.

NADA PRITISANAC MATULICH

Category: Philanthropy Country: United States of America

Nada Pritisanac Matulich, born in the Slavonia region, is a volunteer director of Croatian School in Los Angeles where she also launched a school of Authentic Croatian cuisine. She is active in numerous Croatian organizations including the St. Anthony parish in Los Angeles. Each year, she leads a group of Croatians dressed in traditional Croatian folk costumes to a Multicultural mass for world peace attended by catholic groups of all nationalities who live in Southern California. She is President of the Croatian World Congress USA, an organization that she re-invigorated three years ago. She was elected to her second term as National coordinator of 2020 Croatian World Games – Team USA. She is currently working on a numbers of projects: a project to enable global networking of Croatians; another one titled "The Tie Project" ("Kravata"), with the goal of collecting ties of prominent Croatians all across the USA so as to gather and present them as an exhibit.



NADA PRKAČIN

Anchor, editor and reporter, LAUDATO TV Category: Arts & Culture Country: Republic of Croatia

Her passion is Croatian history and developments with a focus on ordinary people who were victimized because of their love of their homeland and their Catholic faith. Nada was born in Požega 1968. She graduated Journalism at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, 1990 winning the Rector's award as the best student of her generation. 1990 – 1993: Head of broadcasting Croatian Radio Osijek and reporter covering the war zone in Eastern Slavonia. 1993 – 1995: Chief correspondent Croatian Radio Požega. 1995 – 1998: Spokes-person for Vukovar–Srijem County during reintegration process of the Danube region. 1998 – 2014: Croatian National TV journalist in mosaic and news coverage. Editor 'TV Calendar' spanning several years. 2014 – present: LAUDATO.TV, a Christian family oriented channel. Scenarist and director of 30 documentary films. Author of three books related to the Croatian Homeland War. Author and editor of popular 'My Croatia' covering historical topics.





Akademkinja MIRNA ŠITUM, dr. med.

Department head, dermatovenereology, the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center Category: Science & Technology Country: Republic of Croatia

Dr. Situm is a leading Croatian and most frequently cited author, dermatovenereologist and dermatooncologist with a prominent international scientific reputation in the fields of dermatologic oncology and psychodermatology. Since 2000, Prof. Situm has been Department head of dermatovenereology at the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center in Zagreb. She has presided over 50 international scientific meetings and is an invited lecturer at global meetings. With more than 670 publications, of which 200 are scientific papers, she has participated in 17 scientific projects as an investigator and member of seven editorial boards of international scientific journals, 10 international professional societies, the European expert committee "Euromelanoma day organization" and the global Vitiligo Research Foundation. She is the founder of two Croatian Referral Centers as well as the Croatian Vitiligo Biobank. She is a PhD mentor for 19 doctoral dissertations. She has been awarded numerous scientific and international awards, including the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Award and National Science Award. Her work so far has given a lasting, recognizable and significant contribution to Croatian and world medical sciences in her field.



dr. sc. prim. VANJA SLIJEPČEVIĆ-SAFTIĆ, dr. med.

Associate Professor, pediatric neurology Category: Science & Technology Country: Republic of Croatia

Vanja Slijepčević Saftić, is a renowned pediatric specialist with a subspecialty focus on pediatric neurology. Vanja is the only neurologist in Croatia that deals with the impact of the stress on neural disparities, general life and long-term impacts on overall health of abuse victims. Working with victims of sexual, physical and emotional abuse and all manner of neglect, Vanja has devoted her work to early detection of all forms of violence and reprogramming victims to enable brighter futures for children of abuse. In the course of her work, Vanja continues to reinforce the significant economic impact of these issues Croatia. Her work has been recognized at world and domestic congresses and in print and electronic media. She participated in a public debate which developed the Draft National Strategy for Children's Rights in the Republic of Croatia from 2014 to 2020. Vanja is Head of the International Charitable Club, Leo Lions Club Grič, Zagreb.

dr. sc. HEDDA MARTINA ŠOLA

Assistant Professor, Marketing, University Hercegovina Category: Leadership & Innovation Country: Republic of Croatia

Dr. Hedda Martina Šola is listed in the international encyclopaedia "Hübners Who is Who in Croatia" (2015) as one of the leading marketing experts in the Republic of Croatia. Her name is linked to several visual identities of Cities and Municipalities, as well as strategic marketing plans, brands and strategies. She wrote Croatia's first book on neuromarketing titled, Neuromarketing Armoury. Her books have been translated into two foreign languages, they are used for studies at universities and are sold in Croatia, the USA and EU countries. She has advised more than 100 companies of various kinds, and published more than 30 scientific and professional study articles. She is employed at the University of Herzegovina as an Assistant Professor in the field of marketing, and is a permanent expert witness for marketing and intellectual property rights cases.





RUŽA STUDER BABIĆ

Founder and editor, news portal Moja Domovina Category: Leadership & Innovation Country: Switzerland

A humanitarian from Switzerland, Ruža Studer Babić, has for many years worked intensively on the challenges of the Croatian dijaspora. To aid in this mission, in June 2016 Ruža launched the online portal Moja Domovina to provide emigrants and returnees with much needed information. Croats the world over use both the Portal and its social media channels to ask for advice and to discuss current hot topics related to their homeland. In 2016, she was instrumental in the establishment of the IPU – Migrants, Returnees and Immigrants organization which was the main driver in the inclusion of a positive amendment related to taxation of foreign pensions as a part of reform of Croatia's Tax Act in early 2017. For her contribution for the Croatian community in Switzerland, in 2017, she was elected as the representative to the Council of the European Committee. With their endless engagement for the general well-being of Croatian emigrants and returnees in their homeland, Ruza and her co-workers have lunched numerous humanitarian actions in support of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Prim. dr. sc. SPOMENKA TOMEK-ROKSANDIĆ, MD

Associate Professor, gerontologist and specialist in social medicine Category: Science & Technology Country: Republic of Croatia

Spomenka specializes in social medicine for geriatric preventative healthcare management. She is responsible for numerous gerontology and healthcare management innovations. She and her collaborators: established a new paradigm for the development of a program for active, healthy aging; developed a program of home care for the elderly, the Gerontorological Center which incepted a new occupation, the geronto-housekeeper. Centers which now exist in virtually all Croatian counties. She is the publisher, editor and co-editor of 10 gerontological books, as well as some 250 papers on gerontology and geriatrics, which are included in CROSBI; and wrote the first university book on early detection of Alzheimers. Spomenka served as Head of the Reference Center for Healthcare of the Elderly in the Ministry of Health Care of the Republic of Croatia (2002–2018). It was here that she lead an interdisciplinary team in divising a Health Care Program outlining rules and procedures for the advancing of health care protection and the improvement of geriatric health care, geronto-kinesiology, geronto-anthropology, geronto-dentistry, geronto-nutrition geronto-technology and health-tourism for the elderly. Importantly, her team developed an innovative digital system (GeroS / CEZIH / SELFIE, (2014)) of shared health and social care information to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the elderly.



ANA VIDOVIĆ

Musician Category: Arts & Culture Country: United States of America

The extraordinarily talented Ana Vidovic hails from the town of Karlovac near Zagreb. She began playing guitar at the age of five and began performing publicly at the age of seven. Performing internationally at the age of 11, by her 13th year she became the youngest student to attend the prestigious National Music Academy in Zagreb, studying with prof. Istvan Romer. Her talent and growing reputation lead to an invitation to study with Manuel Barrueco at the Peabody Conservatory where she graduated in 2005. She has given more than 1000 public performances winning her an impressive number of international awards including: first place at the Albert Augustine International Competition in Bath, England, the Fernando Sor competition in Rome, Italy and the Francisco Tarrega Competition in Benicasim, Spain. Other top placements include the Eurovision Competition for Young Asrtists, Maurio Giuliani Competition in Italy, Printemps de la Guitare in Belgium and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in NYC, USA. In Croatia, Ana has performed with the Zagreb Soloists, the Zagreb Philha monic Orchestra and with the Croatian Radio & Television Symphony Orchestra. Ana was featured in three TV documentaries by the preeminent Croatian film director Petar Krelja.

CWOI VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION a very special thanks...

Putting together an international awards ceremony and conference with finalists and speakers from every corner of the globe is no easy task, and a great many women and men deserve our gratitude for their efforts.

We extend a very special thanks to our fluently bilingual student volunteers who gave their time – and their incredible enthusiasm – to help make these events an honored experience for our guest.

Thanks for being an inspiration to women of Croatian heritage everywhere.

ZAHVALA VOLONTERIMA od srca hvala...

Organizacija Međunarodne konferencije i svečane dodjele nagrada sa sudionicima iz gotovo cijeloga svijeta, nije lagan zadatak. Volonteri, Organizacijski odbor, svi u Hrvatskoj koji su odradili ogroman posao, zaslužuju našu zahvalnost za sav trud i brigu.

Posebno se zahvaljujemo našim studenticama koje su odvojile svoje vrijeme te iskustvom, znanjem i nevjerojatnim entuzijazmom pridonijele poticajnoj atmosferi i pomogle da se svaki gost naše Konferencije osjeća dobrodošlim.

Vi ste inspiracija ženama hrvatskoga podrijetla diljem svijeta.

CWN/MHŽ congratulates its worldwide membership on five years of connecting, celebrating and championing Croatian women.

We invite you to help us grow our membership by becoming a member today.

Please visit croatianwomensnetwork.org/membership/join-us/ for more information.

WWW.CROATIANWOMENSNETWORK.ORG

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Hrvatska matica iseljenika ima čast pozvati Vas na svečano otvorenje izložbe slika

-Dijane Čović

Acta, non verba / Djela, ne riječi

U petak, 8. ožujka 2019. s početkom u 14.00 sati u Hrvatskoj matici iseljenika, Trg Stjepana Radića 3, Zagreb





Izložba se održava u povodu nagrada Utjecajne hrvatske žene 2019. i Buduće liderice koje dodjeljuje Mreža hrvatskih žena