

BHAAAS

Newsletter

We Welcome Our New Members

(As of 8/30/2011)

- Benjamin Moore
Honorary member
- Diane Wittry
International member
- Mugdim Karabeg
Honorary member
- Jasmin NUHIC
Associate member
- Harun Hodzic
Corresponding member
- Sumeja Zahirovic
Candidate member
- Milad Hadziabdic
Associate member
- Mary Sherhart
International member
- Alma Imsirevic
Associate member
- Enes Kujundzic
Corresponding member
- Svjetlana Lozo
Associate member
- Ibrahim Omerhodzic
Corresponding member
- Adnan Sulejmanpasic
Associate member
- Suad Paratusic
Associate member
- Amela Marin
Active member
- Gorana Simunovic-Neskovic
Promoted from Candidate into Associate member
- Ira Herenda
Promoted from Candidate into Associate member

From the Editor



The STEĆCI

"Neka oprosti gospodja Europa,
ona nema spomenike kulture.
Pleme Inka u Americi ima
spomenike,
Egipat ima prave spomenike

kulture.

Neka oprosti gospodja Europa
samo Bosna ima spomenike.

Stecke.

Sta je stecak?

Olicenje gorstaka Bosanca!

Sta radi Bosanac na stecku?

Stoji uspravno! Digao glavu, digao ruku!

Ali nigdje, nigdje, nikad, niko nije pronasao
stecak

na kome Bosanac kleci ili moli.

Na kome je prikazan kao suzanj..."

-M. KRLEŽA

"Lady Europe might pardon us,
But she does not have monuments of culture.
The Inca tribe in America has its monuments,
Egypt has the genuine ones.
Lady Europe might pardon us, but only Bosnia
has its monuments.

The STEĆCI.

What is a STEĆAK?

That is the personification of a highlander Bosnian!

What is a Bosnian doing on the STEĆAK?

Standing erect! His head and arm lifted high!

But nowhere, nowhere, nobody has ever found a
STEĆAK

with a Bosnian kneeling or begging.

On which he appears as a slave..."

-M. KRLEŽA

Just as I was planning our family summer trip to Bosnia, I read the above poem by Miroslav Krleža, one of few world literature giants from former Yugoslavia, and in the moment decided that this summer I would visit Radimlja, near Stolac. It was convenient; my first thought was, as my trip to Stolac has been long overdue. My family roots from the father's side are there...

At 40 km south of Mostar, stands the lovely museum-city of Stolac, a town of extremely antique origins (various remains point to a prehistoric settlement). It is crossed by the Bregava River, a tributary of the Neretva River. Stolac is the town with the greatest number of archaeological sites and historical-cultural monuments in today's Herzegovina.

Throughout its long history, Stolac has been an outstandingly cultured town. No other town in Bosnia and Herzegovina has produced such a rich array of intellectuals, artists, poets and leaders. Strolling through Stolac to the sound of the rushing Bregava River and the many songbirds, it is easy to imagine the inspiration felt by its many generations of extraordinary personalities (Wikipedia).



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The Radimlja Necropolis, 2 km from Stolac, soars as one of the most fascinating and mysterious places of this area: here you can see dozens of “stećci” (singular: stećak), monumental medieval tombstones of the ancient Bogomils, dating back to the 11th–16th centuries, that lie scattered mainly within borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with some remaining on its border parts with Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia (territory of the medieval Bosnian state). This necropolis is considered to be one of the most

important of the country for its dimensions and for the value of its many “stećci”.

Their most remarkable feature is their decorative motifs, many of which remain enigmatic to this day. Spirals, arcades, rosettes, vine leaves and grapes, suns and crescent moons are among the images that appear. Figural motifs include processions of deer, dancing the “kolo”, hunting and, most famously, the image of the erect man with his right hand raised, perhaps in a gesture of fealty...

“Iz dlana mi sija sunce. Imam srce za sve pametne i dobre ljude.”

-Sa STEĆKA

“The sun shines from the palm of my hand. My heart is for all the bright and good people.”

-From a STEĆAK

Although its origins are within the Bosnian Church, overwhelming evidence points to the fact that stećci were erected in later time by adherents of the Catholic, Orthodox and Islamic faith alike. Marian Wenzel, the world's leading authority on the art and artifacts of medieval Bosnia and Herzegovina, and John Fine, a historian and author of “The Late Medieval Balkans: A Critical Survey from the Late Twelfth Century to the Ottoman Conquest”, independently concurred that the “stećci” tombstones reflected a regional cultural phenomenon rather than belonging to a particular faith.

The history is not mistaken; One state, related cultures and many religions within.

Emir Festic

festadoc@yahoo.com

From the Desk of the President



Dear Friends,

It was a great honor to serve as the 2010/2011 President of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences. I had the great privilege of working with so many talented, accomplished, and renowned individuals.

The Academy continued its growth in the past year and now has close to 170 members. Our fifth annual meeting in St. Louis (September 16-18) is going to be the largest academy meeting to date. We appreciate very much the great efforts of our dedicated St. Louis members. This meeting will also include the traditional mentoring program for young students of BiH origin in the St. Louis area. Additionally, it will feature an art exhibition, movie presentation, classical music concert, and many more events authored by BHAAAS members. A very full social and entertainment program is planned as well.

We have completed the selection of candidates for The International Cultural Exchange Program for Classical Musicians. Four young classical musicians from the US will spend time in BiH and perform with Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra. This program will begin in September 2011 and finish July 2, 2012, thanks to

the efforts and grants of the Academy. We will also continue our International Fellowship Mentoring Program for young neurosurgeons/spine surgeons in collaboration with the Semmes-Murphey Clinic. Dr Ibrahim Omerhodzic, the fourth young neurosurgeon from BiH, is scheduled to start his monthlong fellowship in Memphis, TN.

Our next Days in BiH meeting will be in Zenica, October 12 - 14, 2011. The meeting is in its final stages of preparation. We thank our Zenica members and the Community of Zenica for their great efforts in preparing for this event. Preparation for next year's Days in BiH 2012 (Banja Luka) as well as our next sixth annual meeting 2012 in Jacksonville, FL have already begun.

I am pleased to transfer the presidential position to Prof. Djenita Pasic, JD, who as our President-Elect will surely take our organization to the next level. I am convinced that the best days of our Academy are ahead.

Kenan Arnautovic, MD, FACS, FAANS
BHAAAS President

From/About Our Members in the Press

How Ratko Mladic's Evil Dream Lives On

From: Bloomberg.com, Op-Ed commentary, 5/30/2011

By Aleksandar Hemon

In the spring of 1992, at the beginning of the siege of Sarajevo, an exchange between General Ratko Mladic and a Serb artillery colonel commanding positions above the city was intercepted and recorded. "Fire on Velesici and Pofalici," General Mladic ordered, referring to two Sarajevo neighborhoods.

"There aren't many Serbs there." A certain glee in his voice is audible as he refines his order: "Don't let them sleep. Make them lose their minds."

Later on, he'd claim that the conversation was faked, that the order was given by "a skillful imitator" of his voice. Had he ever existed, the imitator would have been deservedly praised for capturing perfectly ruthlessness worthy of Christopher Marlowe's Tamburlaine. For General Mladic, handpicked by Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, to command the destruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the price of a few dead fellow Serbs wasn't too high if he could make Sarajevans lose their minds, before they lost their lives.

But the man who proudly addressed a TV camera on July 11, 1995, the day the "safe" enclave of Srebrenica fell to the Serb forces, wasn't a skillful imitator, but General Mladic himself. He offered the conquered city as "a gift to the Serb people," adding that "finally the time has arrived to take revenge upon the Turks, after the uprising against the Dahi." Apart from putting himself, out of evident patriotic vanity, on the scene of a war crime, General Mladic precisely formulated the racist pathology of Serbian nationalism: The uprising against the Dahi--the local Ottoman overlords -- took place in the early 19th century. By "the Turks" he now meant Bosnian Muslims. Invested in an uprising from 200 years earlier, he fought imaginary enemies.

Srebrenica Massacre

His victims were far too real. In Srebrenica, General Mladic

directly oversaw the killing of almost 8,000 men, a feat now known as the largest mass murder in Europe since World War II. He was all over the place, and a camera faithfully followed him: Walking the streets of the ravaged city, he issued orders off the cuff. To the desperate women and children, he promised passage to safety, suggesting that the men would follow later. He bullied Colonel Thomas Karremans, the commander of the Dutch United Nations battalion, who then meekly delivered to their death the men seeking protection in the UN camp. At a meeting with the hapless Karremans that included Nesib Mandzic, a local high-school teacher, Mladic claimed that if the Muslim men in the UN camp chose to lay their arms down (they had none, as that had been the condition of their entering the camp) he would "guarantee" their lives; to the terrified teacher he entrusted the task of convincing them, and told him that "the fate of his people (was) in his hands."

Absolute Power

The fate of the people of Srebrenica was, of course, in General Mladic's hands. From a position of absolute power over life and death, he made his victims believe he had no reason to lie, precisely because his power was absolute. He clearly enjoyed offering false choices to the men he was about to exterminate, offering candy to their children, offering eternal expulsion to their wives and mothers, his power increasing by a pleasant notch: it was now so great that he could choose not to wield it.

The whole world knows he did.

A career officer in the Yugoslav People's Army, he'd commanded a provincial garrison in the Macedonian town of Stip in the late '80s. After his sociopathic talents had been recognized by Milosevic, Mladic was promoted and transferred in 1991 to the Knin garrison in Croatia, where he quickly carved out a large chunk of territory, which the Serbs lost only in 1995. In 1992, he was sent to Bosnia to continue establishing Greater Serbia. When Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb

civilian leader, tried to remove him from his supreme commanding post in 1995, General Mladic simply ignored him, as did Mladic's loyal Bosnian Serb Army. All over the Serb lands, songs were sung about him and his heroic feats.

Home Movies

None of his heroic ruthlessness, however, was visible in the footage broadcast on Bosnian television in 2009, in which Mladic was featured in a series of home movies. Apart from an occasional thick-necked bodyguard stumbling into the frame, nothing suggests the war, let alone a genocidal exercise of power in Srebrenica. Instead, Mladic is seen at parties and weddings, singing loudly out of tune; he's visited by other suspected war criminals in civilian suits, carrying flowers for his wife; he enjoys downtime in the idyllic surroundings of military barracks somewhere in Serbia -- accompanied by a singing bird, he pensively says: "Peace. Quiet." If it weren't for the images from his suicide daughter's funeral, where he kisses the morbid little window on her coffin, and then, ever a neat soldier, wipes it with a handkerchief, the footage would be practically a commercial for comfortable retirement.

For years after the war ended in 1995, he moved freely between the Bosnian Serb territories and Serbia proper. Only after the fall of Milosevic in 2000 did he go into what is very generously called hiding, as the Serbian security forces seemed to have known where he was all along. He continued receiving Serbian military pension until 2005.

Burning for Revenge

The 69-year-old man who emerged from a house in Lazarevo, in northeastern Serbia, looks nothing like the Mladic of Srebrenica, who was burning, his sleeves rolled up, to get to the business of revenge. Now a spent man, Mladic has outlived Milosevic, his project of Greater Serbia and the fanatical loyalty of many Serbs, fed from the fertile ground of mass murder. And there is a happy consensus in Serbia and Europe that it is time to drop the stinking weight of Yugoslav wars and proceed to Greater Europe, where free-trade oblivion will soon ensue. But the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina today ought to be part

of Mladic's indictment: Srebrenica is still under Serb control; the families of the murdered men dare not return. The politicians of "Republika Srpska," a Serb state-let built by Mladic and his killers, but nominally part of Bosnia, participate in Bosnian political institutions only to block their functioning. Europe, for which Mladic is the Serbian ticket, is closed to Bosnia, partly because there aren't Bosnian war criminals that could be traded in for prosperity. General Mladic's project of Greater Serbia has failed, but his project of destroying Bosnia still has a good chance of succeeding.

(Aleksandar Hemon, a Bosnian-American writer, is the author, most recently, of the novel "The Lazarus Project" and "Love and Obstacles," a collection of short stories. The opinions expressed are his own.)

The Ghosts of Srebrenica

From: STLtoday.com, Op-Ed commentary, 6/01/2011

By Patrick McCarthy

Sixteen years after his indictment for genocide and other crimes against humanity, Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic's arrest has special resonance in St. Louis. The uprooted lives of the more than 70,000 Bosnians here are the human cost of Mladic's alleged crimes and the direct consequence of the world's indefensible failure to stop the man called the "Butcher of Bosnia."

The catalog of atrocities allegedly committed by Mladic is extensive. In 1991, after Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia, Mladic was sent to Knin, the self-declared capital of the breakaway "Serb Republic" of Croatia. There, Mladic is said to have proved his brutal skills in the violent uprooting of civilians - a process that came to be known as "ethnic cleansing." Promoted to the rank of general, Mladic allegedly then moved on to oversee the destruction of multiethnic Bosnia-Herzegovina and the genocidal massacre of civilians there. In the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, Mladic allegedly provided detailed instructions to Serbian military forces manning the

heavy weapons in the mountains above the encircled, besieged city below. "Shell them," Mladic commanded, "until they are on the edge of madness." Mortar fire and deliberate targeting of civilians by snipers reduced the once-vibrant, cosmopolitan city to what aid workers called the world's largest concentration camp.

I traveled to wartime Sarajevo in 1994. Transiting on foot in and out of the blockaded city by way of a tunnel dug under the Sarajevo airport, I saw firsthand the results of Mladic's alleged handiwork: water, gas, electricity and food supplies cut off to the city's 300,000 inhabitants. During the three-and-a-half-year siege, 12,000 Sarajevans of every background were killed, including 2,500 children. The heartbreaking spectacle of Sarajevo's demise was broadcast live on CNN, while outside policy makers dithered and intentionally mislabeled the obvious military aggression a "humanitarian problem."

In the summer of 1995, General Mladic allegedly personally supervised the genocide in Srebrenica. As his forces overran with impunity the United Nations-declared "safe area", Mladic went to the U.N. base in Potocari and reassured the huddled mass of humanity that they had nothing to fear: "Do not be frightened. You will be taken by bus to safety." As the terrified refugees made their way to waiting buses, Srebrenica's men and boys — ranging in age from 80 down to 12 — were separated from their loved ones.

From her home in St. Louis, Hatida Salihovic recalled the horrifying events. She was seven months pregnant at the time.

"When I was leaving, there was a woman who had a 12-year-old son and as they got on the bus, the Serbs took the boy. The woman was screaming 'Let him go! Let him go! I don't have anyone else left.' She told them, 'If you are going to take him, then take me, too.' But they said, 'We don't need you, we only need him.' A Serbian soldier kicked the woman with his foot and she hit the bus. And her son was taken away."

Dutch U.N. peacekeepers did nothing to intervene. Srebrenica's male population was rounded up and taken to execution sites where they were killed and bulldozed into mass graves. Mean-

while, a large column of men, including Hatida's husband, Dzemail, went into the woods in a desperate attempt to escape. Hatida never saw Dzemail again. She gave birth to their daughter, Dzenana, 12 days later in the city of Tuzla, where Srebrenica's desolate survivors had assembled in shock and disbelief. The long-awaited arrest of Ratko Mladic has brought a welcome measure of relief but no true satisfaction to Bosnians in St. Louis. For more than a decade and a half, they watched as Mladic, who is alleged to be responsible for the greatest war crimes in Europe since the end of the World War II, remained free, reportedly attending family weddings and public soccer matches in Belgrade, Serbia, where he still is regarded by ultranationalists as a hero.

While important for international justice and accountability, Mladic's apprehension offers cold consolation for the families who continue to mourn their loved ones slaughtered and dumped nameless into mass graves. For them, 16 years later, the disquieting ghosts of the past still mostly bring memories of betrayal, sorrow and loss.

(Patrick McCarthy is director of the Medical Center Library at Saint Louis University. The opinions expressed are his own.)

Profile: Bosnia native, Grand Rapids go-to guy Haris Alibasic

By Terri Finch Hamilton | The Grand Rapids Press

Haris Alibasic, impeccably dressed in a suit, holds his 9-month-old daughter, Lamija, on his lap as she howls. He jiggles her. Coos at her. Gives her dry cereal to munch and water to sip. "Yaaaaaaaaaaaa!" Lamija shrieks. Alibasic, who has seemingly at least nine different jobs with the City of Grand Rapids, is good at fixing things, from neighbor disputes to City Hall windows that leak energy to tricky legislative affairs.

"Yaaaaaaaaaaaa!" Lamija shrieks again. But dad knows when he's beat, and hands his yowling baby off to his wife. "She's a fighter," he says proudly of his daughter.

You'll see where she gets that. Alibasic, 39, has an office on

the sixth floor of Grand Rapids City Hall, right next to the mayor's. He's Mayor George Heartwell's go-to guy on all sorts of stuff — some things you may not even realize anybody's doing. His main job is as director of energy and sustainability for the city, which means he has his hands in everything from the use of solar panels in city buildings to planning installation of charging stations around town for electric cars to a proposal to use wind turbines to create energy at the city's water filtration plant.

But, as City Manager Greg Sundstrom says, "Few of us here have the luxury of doing one thing," so Alibasic also solves the stickiest neighborhood problems nobody else could fix. He also was in charge of the city's 2010 census count. He was instrumental in getting the Kroc Center off the ground, after controversy erupted when Garfield Park neighbors didn't want it built there, as originally planned.

He wrote the rules that allow city business owners, such as all of those Uptown restaurant and shop owners, to join together and use property taxes the city collects from them to pay for neighborhood improvements, such as turning an old vacant lot into paved parking for customers.

What can't Alibasic do? "Haris has an enormous capacity for work," Heartwell says. "He's a bit of a magnet for projects and initiatives that I dream up or the city manager dreams up. We'll say, 'Who's there to do the work?' Haris. He can always take on one more job." If it's volatile, give it to Haris. "He's calm and patient," Heartwell says.

That's in large part because Alibasic has endured a lot worse than the most ornery city resident can dish up.

War-torn homeland

He grew up in Bosnia and survived the three-year war there in the 1990s, watching his home and village burn to the ground, tanks rumble through every night, neighbors shot dead by Serbian soldiers in huge swaths of ethnic cleansing. "When you think about his background, coming from a war-torn nation and

the stresses and pressures he's had," Heartwell says, "solving some of the city's most intractable neighborhood problems is a walk in the park." When 200 angry Grand Haven residents gathered at a public hearing, riled up about Grand Rapids' plan to install two wind turbines in Grand Haven Township to power its lakeshore water filtration plant, Heartwell sent Alibasic. You can tell he feels sort of bad about it. "The people were angry; they were very disrespectful," Heartwell says. "Haris said afterward, 'There was never a time I thought I wouldn't get out of Bosnia alive. But I thought I'd never get out of Grand Haven Township alive.'"

People call Haris quiet and serious, but he can be pretty funny. They didn't get the permits needed for the wind turbines. "But Haris was able to handle it all," Heartwell says, "with his usual calm demeanor. 'The courage and endurance one develops coming out of a war setting is useful in peace time,'" Heartwell says. "Haris is unflappable," Heartwell says. "There's a quiet demeanor about him that I suspect comes out of his experience." Many here have just a fuzzy understanding of the war. Alibasic can explain it — then share poems he wrote during the worst of it, turning horror into a kind of sad beauty.

Before the war, there were six republics in former Yugoslavia. Four republics decided to separate from Yugoslavia in the early 1990s in an attempt to break away from the oppressive Serbian nationalists led by Slobodan Milosevic, he explains.

Slovenia was the first, then Croatia, then Bosnia and, finally, Macedonia. After the referendum on independence passed, the four republics became independent and were internationally recognized. But Milosevic had a plan for a "Greater Serbia," Alibasic explains, and Serbian nationalists attacked Slovenia, then Croatia, then they turned the entire war effort to Bosnia. The Serbian army killed more than 100,000 Bosnian civilians, Alibasic says, systematically ridding much of Bosnia and Croatia of all non-Serbs. The war ended in late 1995 with the signing of a peace agreement. Those are the bare facts, Alibasic says.

A poet

Now, he shares a poem he wrote in 1994 about the fires of war that claimed his home in June 1992, when he was 20.

Flame
Tongues overpower the sky
Touching the horizon high
I hardly breathe
Face into two pieces
Falls apart
First part salvation seeks
The second part
Stands still
Watching around
 Looking outside and inside
 Flames getting higher
 Insane flaming beasts
 Abandoned horses
 Rearing up
 I stand, no armor
 Engulfed by the flame
 That burned the house down
 Burned the past
 Memories erased

“I witnessed my home burning,” he says, sitting at the dining room table in his home on the city’s Northeast Side. “My whole village was burned. Five hundred homes, all burning at once. “The infrastructure in Bosnia was completely obliterated,” he says. “Everything was destroyed. Roads. Schools. Everything. “Every night, the tanks could shoot right at you,” he says. “I witnessed people shot by mortars. I saw dead bodies covered up. “They would just shoot you ... 100,000 civilians were killed. Our home and village were burned for no other reason than the fact that we were not Serbs.” He slides a photo across the table of 50 simple wood coffins lined up at a funeral for 50 civilians killed in his village. “They just burned them alive,” he says. “I can’t even tell you about the horrors.” His dad spent 18 months in a concentration camp, where he was

threatened and beaten. “We didn’t know if he was alive for six months,” he says. “One day, you can have your home, your life. Then ...” His voice trails off. After the horror, Alibasic knew without a doubt what truth would guide him. “What really matters is not your house or your car,” he says quietly. “It’s the people. Your family, your closest friends. I was blessed my immediate family wasn’t killed or captured. “It’s a great testament to human survival,” he says. “There was a great sense of unity. We used car batteries to run the radio. You learn to live with less. As long as there was flour and oil and salt to make bread ...”

Learning to survive

There was no normalcy, but he did the best he could. He hosted a radio show three times a week. He took college classes. He passed time translating Pink Floyd songs into Bosnian. (A music lover, he now loves the Vertigo Music store downtown and collects vinyl records.) “It was a challenge that tested human spirit,” he says of the war. “People learn how to survive. It made me stronger.”

After the war, Alibasic got a government job as a business specialist. He worked as a translator for the United Nations for a while. He worked for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other international organizations as a business and economic development specialist. He came to Grand Rapids in 2000 with his family — mom Emira, dad Dzevad, brothers Venso, 38, and Emir, 29 — after his dad was granted immigration status through refugee resettlement. But he didn’t leave Bosnia behind. Alibasic is president of the Congress of North American Bosnians, representing at least 350,000 Americans and Canadians of Bosnian descent. He meets with the president of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zeljko Komsic. He writes for Bosnian magazines and newspapers, tracks legislative issues and works to strengthen the relationship between Bosnia and the United States. He’s been elected to the position three years in a row. Everybody likes Alibasic. His friend and colleague William Crawley at Grand Valley State University, where Alibasic

teaches, has seen his intense commitment in action.

The two traveled with a local group to Turkey last month, an interfaith trip sponsored by the Niagara Foundation, a Chicago-based organization that promotes peace and understanding.

“People in Turkey asked me about the Grand Rapids lip dub,” Alibasic says with a grin. “They said that was so cool.” There’s a significant population of Bosnians in Turkey, Crawley says, and Alibasic connected with them wherever they went, asking about their lives, getting political updates. When Crawley boarded his plane for home, Alibasic got on a different plane to Sarajevo, to meet with the Bosnian president.

‘Both worlds’

Back home at GVSU, where Alibasic teaches graduate-level classes in city politics and policy, Crawley says Alibasic is great at taking the textbook theory his students study and relating it to the real world of government, where he works every day. “He has a foot in both worlds,” Crawley says. “He shares the realities that aren’t always captured in their textbooks. It makes for a really strong voice in the classroom.” Plus, his students can sometimes read about his City Hall exploits in the newspaper, Crawley says, which they think is pretty cool. Alibasic’s experiences in war-torn Bosnia bring another layer of depth to his teaching, Crawley says. “He teaches citizenship as a serious obligation,” Crawley says. “And beyond local or state government. He talks to his students as global citizens.”

A sentimental husband

Alibasic’s wife, Katie, says living through war has made her husband careful and sentimental. “He’s very cautious about security,” she says. “He’s always checking all the doors and windows. “He wants to save everything,” Katie says. “Pictures are so important to him.” “There are hardly any pictures from my childhood,” he points out. “They burned in the fire.” As baby Lamija — her name means “brilliant” in Bosnian — naps and 2-year-old Jakub — named for Haris’ grandfather — happily munches cinnamon coffee cake between his parents, Katie

looks tenderly at her husband.

“I think you’re indestructible,” she says. “Nobody can put you down.” He smiles.

“My wife says I’m a survivor,” he says.

The two met at GVSU, both studying public administration.

Katie, who grew up all over the world as an Army kid, learned to speak Bosnian from Alibasic and from children’s books.

They speak to their kids in English and Bosnian so they’ll grow up knowing both.

She learned how to cook Bosnian food, such as burek, a meat or cheese pie made with flaky phyllo dough. “You roll it up like a snake,” she explains, “coil it up in a round pan and bake it.” Alibasic smiles at her. “I have the best wife in the world,” he says. “She puts up with me staying up until 1 a.m.”

He stays busy



Among all of his other activities, he’s working on his doctorate in public policy. His work, he says, “is never done. I have my iPhone on all the time.” Heartwell calls him “my personal Bloomberg News,” always forwarding articles about the latest in sustainability issues. He has all kinds of followers on Twitter, and he has no idea who most of them are. “I’m never bored,” Alibasic says. “Really. Never bored. I’m always meeting new people, implementing new ideas.” And Lamija eventually will wake up from her nap.

Upcoming Events

5-th Annual Academy Meeting Days of Bosnian Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts & Sciences (BHAAAS) in St. Louis, MO

Fontbonne University, St. Louis, Missouri, September 15 – 16,
2011



Mentoring Programs for Young Bosnians

September 15 – 16, 2011

Bridges to Success: A Mentoring Program for Young Bosnians
Thursday, September 15

7:30 pm Mentoring Program Introduction for Young Bosnians
& Their Parents

Location: Mehlville High School, 3200 Lemay Ferry Road, St.
Louis, MO 63125

Welcome and Program Overview: Djenita Pasic, JD
Sharing Success Stories: Adnan Cutuk, MD & Ira Herenda, JD
Literary Reading by Aleksandar Hemon

Annual Academy Meeting

September 16 – 18, 2011

Friday, September 16
Building Bridges for Future Success
Location: Mehlville High School

3:00 pm Panel of Bosnian Experts and Interactive Discussion
on Professional Success

Participants: Aleksandar Hemon, Djenita Pasic, JD, Azra
Blazevic, DVM, Ajlina Karamehic-Muratovic, PhD, Adnan
Cutuk, MD, Ira Herenda, JD, Alma Imsirevic, JD,

4:00 pm Breakout Sessions on Specific Careers: Law & Busi-
ness; Medicine, Healthcare, & Research; Arts, Humanities &
Social Sciences.

Annual Meeting

September 16 – September 18, 2011

Friday, September 16
7:15 pm Welcome dinner for Academy Members
Location: Aya Sofia Restaurant, 6671 Chippewa, St. Louis,
MO 63109

Saturday, September 17
8:30 am Continental breakfast
Location: Anheuser Busch Hall 203-205
Fontbonne University, 6800 Wydown Blvd., St. Louis, MO
63105

9:00 am Welcome from Fontbonne University Administration
All-member meeting:
Admission of new members
Distribution of certificates
Committee reports
10:30 am Break
10:45 am Bijelo Dugme film with moderated discussion on
popular culture in Bosnia-Herzegovina / former Yugoslavia.
One Health Initiative Introduction – Emir Hodzic, DVM, PhD
12:00 noon Lunch – Section Breakout Sessions

Location: Anheuser Busch Hall 203-205

One Health Initiative (Medicine, Science, & Research Section)
Senad Divanovic, PhD, MSc: The role of innate immune re-
sponses in development and progression of obesity.
Nikolina Babic, PhD: Clinical Pharmacogenetics.
Almasa Bass, PharmD: Urgent Medical Technology Needs
(BT1500 bioanalyzer) for Dom Zdravlja in Donji Vakuf.
Ajlina Karamehic-Muratovic, PhD & Azra Blazevic, DVM,
MSPH: A pilot study: A cross-national and cross-continental
study of well being in a refugee community.
Emir Hodzic, DVM, PhD: The perfect storm: Lyme disease
epidemic.

Technical Sciences Section
Mirsad Hadzikadic, PhD, Migdat Hodzic, PhD, Ali Akansu,
PhD, Tea Temim, PhD

Law, Business, and Other Professions Section
Law: Djenita Pasic, Sulejman Dizdarevic, JD, Elma Beganovic,
BA, Dino Kujundzic, JD, and Ira Herenda, JD;

Upcoming Events (continued)

Business / Finance: Milad Hadziabdic, MSc, Igor Lemajic, MBA, Adnan Sulejmanpasic, MSc, and others to be announced.

Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences Section
1:00 pm Exhibit opening of Jesenko Kurbasic's work
Location: Fine Arts Gallery

Academy General Assembly Meeting

2:00 pm Report of the President of the Academy on past year activities & plans for next year
Presentation of Honorary Members
Introduction of new President
Opening speech by the new President
Certificate for outgoing President
Certificate for the largest contribution in the past year

3:00 pm Film: "From Auschwitz to Dretelj" – Featuring Academy members Dr. Esad Boškailo, psychiatrist, and Mugdim Karabeg, renowned Bosnian journalist, as they provide chilling testimony as two survivors of the Dretelj concentration camp. They shed light on resilience of the victims, the psychology of the perpetrators, and how one could and should resist taking part in mass madness and cruelty. Directed by Timur Boškailo.

4:15 pm Gordan Srkalović, MD: "Cancer in the 21 Century: Plague or Discomfort."

5:00 pm Presidential Guest Speaker: Benjamin Moore, PhD, Director of the Bosnia Memory Project at Fontbonne University

6:00 pm Benefit concert for the Academy: AlmaNova (Jessica Pierce & Almer Imamovic)

8:00 pm Dinner & Social Time – Music by Mary Sherhart and Others
Location: Grbic Bosnian Restaurant, 4071 Keokuk, St. Louis, MO 63116 - www.grbicrestaurant.com

Sunday, September 18
Morning Board Meeting at hotel
Afternoon Optional leisure activities in St. Louis (History Museum, Arch, University City "Loop")



3rd Annual "Days of Bosnian Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts & Sciences (BHAAAS) in BiH"

Zenica, October 12-14, 2011

Medical section:

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Plenary session 9.00-15.00
Location: Hotel Zenica
Moderators: Eldin Karaikovic – BHAAAS, hosts: Harun Hodzic & Belma Pojskic - BHAAAS

Pathology seminar 9.00-15.00
Location: Hotel Zenica
Moderators: Nikolina Babic – BHAAAS; hosts: Ermina Iljazovic - BHAAAS & Lejla Mujbegovic
Pediatric psychiatry seminar
Location: Hotel Zenica
Moderators: Nirvana Pistoljevic – BHAAAS;

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Neurosurgery & spinal surgery seminar 9.00-15.00
Location: Hotel Zenica
Moderators: Kenan Arnautovic (neuro), Eldin Karaikovic (ortho) – BHAAAS; hosts: Meho Kovacevic (ortho), Rasim Skomorac (neuro)

Oncology & genetics seminar 9.00-15.00
Location: Hotel Zenica
Moderators: Gordan Srkalovic, Dusica Babovic - BHAAAS, hosts: Ibrahim Šišić, Alma Mekić Abazović

BH-ICU: 3rd International intensive care seminar (Day 1)
10.00-17.30
Location: Hotel Zenica
Moderators: Emir Festic, Ognjen Gajic, Guillaume Thiery – BHAAAS, host: Kasim Spahic

BH-ICU Nursing seminar 10.00-17.00
Location: Hotel Zenica
Moderators: Emir Festic, Ognjen Gajic, G. Thiery – BHAAAS, hosts: Belma Pojskic, Amer Ovcina, Mirza Oruč

Upcoming Events (continued)

Friday, October 14, 2011:

Orthopedics seminar 9.00-15.00
 Location: Hotel Zenica
 Moderator: Eldin Karaikovic - BHAAAS, host: Nedzad Sabic

BH-ICU: 3rd International intensive care seminar (Day 2)
 10.00-14.00
 Location: Hotel Zenica
 Moderators: Emir Festic, Ognjen Gajic, G. Thiery – BHAAAS,
 host: K Spahic
 Pediatric rheumatology seminar
 Location: Hotel Zenica
 Moderators: Diana Milojevic – BHAAAS,
 host: Diana Štimljanin Koldžo

Nonmedical sections

Technology
 Informatics, technology: Complex systems in ecology,
 economics, politics, engineering, technology and military
 Location: Faculty of Metallurgy

Wednesday, October 12, 9.00-15.30
 Moderators: Mirsad Hadzikadic, Migdat Hodzic - BHAAAS,
 host: Senad Balic

Law, finance and economics
 Law: International business contracts and their application in
 the world
 Location: National library Zenica
 Thursday, October 13, 9.00-11.00
 Moderators: Djenita Pasic, Haris Alibasic – BHAAAS

Economic development: Renewable energy in the context of
 sustainability: political directions and local implementation
 Location: National library Zenica
 Thursday, October 13, 14.00-16.00
 Moderator: Haris Alibasic - BHAAAS;

Humanities, education, pedagogy
 Location: “Pedagoska Akademija” Zenica
 Wednesday, October 12, 9.15-16.30
 Moderators: Azra Terzic – BHAAAS, host: Muriz Bajramović

Arts - Music
 Moderators: Almer Imamovic, Jessica Pierce – BHAAAS, host
 - Meliha Salčinović
 Thursday, October 13
 1. Masterclass: Guitar & flute, Srednja Muzicka Skola, Zenica
 Friday, October 14
 2. Gala concert of Sarajevo philharmony (Guest conductor:
 Nyela Basney, USA, guest soloists: Almer Imamovic – guitar;
 Jessica Pierce – fluite; local soloist)



Sections

Dear members and friends of Academy,

There are 5 sections within Academy, which were created in attempt to organize our activities better, and also to connect members who share similar passion, profession or expertise.

Feel free to contact your respective section presidents (listed below), and let them know about your ideas and projects, which could help both you and the Academy to achieve the goals of providing connections among BH scientists, artists and professionals in North America and to build the bridges of cooperation with the homeland. All your suggestions, initiatives as well as critiques are worth consideration and welcomed.

- **Humanities;**
Snjezana Buzov
(buzov.1@osu.edu, snbuzov@gmail.com)

- **Medical section;**
Eldin Karaikovic
(karaikovice@yahoo.com)

- **Technology;**
Mirsad Hadzikadic
(mirsad@uncc.edu)

- **Arts;**
Almer Imamovic
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- **Science;**
Emir Hodzic
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The mission of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences (BHAAS) is advancement and development of arts and sciences in the Bosnian-Herzegovinian diaspora in the United States and Canada.

The Academy aims to provide connections between Bosnian-Herzegovinian scientists, artist and professionals in North America and build the bridges of cooperation with the homeland. The Academy will promote the spirit of intellectual diversity and free exchange of ideas among the Diaspora in the belief that knowledge is shareable wealth.