The Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST) and the University of Buckingham in Great Britain have founded a new medical school in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which will open its doors on October 1st, 2014.

In July, the SSST approached the Medical Section of the BHAAAS to help develop the School’s curriculum and programs. The invitation was accepted with great enthusiasm by the Academy Medical Section.

On August 23th, 2013, BHAAAS and SSST signed a Memorandum of Understanding according to which the cooperation will include not only developing a contemporary curriculum and programs for the School by Academy members, but also will invite the members of the BHAAAS to become a core faculty for the School.

Many Academy members had already been heavily involved in educational, research, volunteer and charity activities with the goal of accelerating medical care and medical education in BiH, including:

- Annual Days of BHAAAS in BiH
- Intensive Care unit development in Sarajevo and Banja Luka
- Participation in publishing Acta Medica Academica of ANUBIH and The Bosnian Journal of Basic Medical Sciences
- Donating equipment for the local medical institutions and units in BiH

Academy member participation will include: organizing seminars, courses, and giving in-person and on-line lectures. This cooperation will also create different research projects in BiH and the USA in which SSST medical students will have an opportunity to participate.

Eldin Karaikovic, MD, PhD - BHAAAS Medical Section President
Being Bosnian: Identities after the War

A report by Patrick McCarthy

Twenty-one years – a generation – after the start of the war and genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the questions surrounding Bosnian cultural and national identities remain unresolved – especially in diaspora communities around the world, where older Bosnians bear the memories of trauma and younger Bosnians live separated from their heritage.

“What does it mean to be Bosnian?”

Before “Bosnian” became an adjective – as in Bosnian Croat or Bosnian Muslim or Bosnian Serb – the term “Bosnian” was understood as a proper noun that included all whose origins were in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bosnia-Herzegovina, sometimes referred to as “Yugoslavia-in-miniature,” is actually a much older geopolitical reality, dating from at least the tenth century, with its own shared culture and identity.

As the only former Yugoslav republic not constituted on the basis of one dominant ethno-national group, Bosnia-Herzegovina occupies a unique historical and cultural space in the South Slavic region of Central Europe.

“Identities After War”

The violent separation of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina was an explicit objective of the aggressors in the 1992-1995 war. The war was an attempt to break apart inter-communal bonds in ways that the connections would be permanently severed.

Presenter Dr. Amila Buturovic
Academy Symposium at Fontbonne University

To explore these ideas in detail, the Academy co-sponsored a symposium on the campus of Fontbonne University on April 12 & 13, 2013, called *Being Bosnian Identities after the War*.

The program featured presentations and interactive conversations with Academy members **Esad Boskailo, Amila Buturovic, and Aleksandar Hemon**.

Honorary Academy members Patrick McCarthy and Ben Moore served as meeting hosts and program facilitators, joined by our colleagues Margaux Sanchez and Refik Hodzic.

The idea for the program came from Sasa Hemon, who proposed that Fontbonne’s Bosnia Memory Project (www.fontbonne.edu/bosnia) host a series of community conversations with BHAAAS members that would draw on their professional and creative skills and then to share them in discussion with the community at large in St. Louis. Funding for the event came from the Fontbonne Community Connection ($5000) and the Missouri Humanities Council ($2500).

**The Complexity of Bosnian Identities**

As Sasa Hemon pointed out, to talk about Bosnians today is to begin with an acknowledgment of the reality of their dispersal and displacement throughout the world to places like St. Louis, now home to one of the largest Bosnian-Herzegovinian communities outside of BiH.

Panelist Refik Hodzic described the consolidation of political structures of division in BiH and the further separation of the Bosnian people that has occurred as a result, while Amila Buturovic distinguished between communally-determined external identities and an interior sense of identity that draws on experiences and personal choices that help define who we are.

Detailing the human cost of the war, Esad Boskailo reflected on the brutality that defined aggressor and victims and the ways in which survivors can over time transcend these categories of experience with a strengthened sense of who they are.

**Memory and Bosnian Identity**

Important questions remain about what it means to be Bosnian, particularly after the war, and especially for younger Bosnians living in the diaspora who navigate daily between “here and there” within their own families and communities while grappling with their own developing sense of identity as Bosnian-Americans.

Azra Terzic proposed that the “Being Bosnian” discussion be continued among the children of Academy members at our annual meeting in Washington, DC.

**We will reprise this panel program with Esad Boskailo, Amila Buturovic, and Aleksandar Hemon on Saturday, October 5 at 2 pm at the Embassy of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Washington, DC.**

Audio files from the Being Bosnian program in St. Louis are posted on the Bosnia Memory Project YouTube page: [https://www.youtube.com/user/BosniaMemoryProject?feature=watch](https://www.youtube.com/user/BosniaMemoryProject?feature=watch)
Support for the Dom Zdravlja Project in Donji Vakuf

From Almasa (Hadžiahmetovic) Bass

Dear BHAAS Members:

I recently returned from my hometown of Donji Vakuf, where I visited the medical clinic (Dom Zdravlja) and staff who are very grateful for everyone’s donations.

The $3,230 raised was applied towards the purchase of a new bioanalyzer for the laboratory (the remainder of the purchase sum is currently being covered by a 12-month interest-free loan).

Dom Zdravlja serves not only inhabitants of my hometown, but also a large number of surrounding villages and plays an important role for public health in the overall area of central Bosnia.

When I reached out to BHAAS members and friends, Dom Zdravlja desperately needed to obtain a clinical chemistry analyzer because the lab utilized an outdated spectrophotometer for analysis of lab results.

The lab technicians were unable to keep up with workload given the outdated equipment, resulting in delays that could be dangerous in case of critical conditions. The new bioanalyzer, which comes with full training and technical support for several years, has dramatically improved the quality of care.

My special thank you goes once more to those who donated towards this cause, and also to treasurer Igor Lemajic as well as our web administrator Amir Milic for their detailed record-keeping.

Almasa with Mr. Jasko Ratkušić, laboratory supervisor [left] and Dr. Hamdija Mlinarević, director of Dom Zdravlja [right]

BHAAS member and non-member donations were used towards the purchase of the BT1500 bioanalyzer for lab results which replaced the outdated spectrophotometer.


Certification from Dom Zdravlja and its staff to BHAAS for supporting this philanthropic activity (left to right: Mr. Nesib Begović, R.T.; Mr. Jasko Ratkušić; Almasa Bass, Pharm.D.; Dr. Mlinarević; and Mr. Muhamed Hodžić, med. tech.)
The 3rd season of the Sarajevo Chamber Music Festival performed 8 concerts of classical chamber music and ran a Chamber Music Institute for aspiring college age musicians from the Balkan countries. A distinguished group of artists came from around the world to perform and teach and over 50 students registered.

The aims of the Festival are four fold: to present world class chamber music concerts in Sarajevo, to foster collaborations between musical artists of diverse societies, to establish a chamber music institute where young musicians can come and immerse themselves in this great art, and to assist the Music Academy of Sarajevo in regaining its pre-war stature.

The Sarajevo Chamber Music Festival is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by Federal law.

We appeal to the Kickstarter community to enable us to share our passion with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1293803604/sarajevo-chamber-music-festival

To learn more about SCMF visit our website:
www.sarajevochambermusicfestival.org

MEMBER UPDATES

Haris Alibašić published “Local Governments Must Take Charge of Building Resilient Communities,” “Using Applied Sustainability to Innovate in Organizations,” and “Warning Shots over Bosnia.” In May, 2013, Alibasic was given special recognition by the Congress of North American Bosniaks (CNAB ) for his contributions as immediate Past President.

Diana Milojevic has accepted the position of Chief of Pediatric Rheumatology with the academic appointment as a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the Floating Hospital for Children in Boston, Massachusetts, part of TUFTS Medical Center, a world renowned center for biomedical research and the principal teaching hospital for Tufts University School of Medicine.

The University of Southern California Thornton School of Music presented the Outstanding Alumnus Award to acclaimed conductor Diane Wittry as part of the School’s Honors Convocation. Wittry, who graduated with honors from USC Thornton in 1983 and earned a Master’s from the school two years later, is an esteemed music director, guest conductor, composer, and author.

Wittry currently serves as the music director of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, where she has championed an exciting, innovative programming style for concerts of all types. She serves as the artistic director for the U.S. as part of the International Cultural Exchange Program for Classical Musicians through the Sarajevo Philharmonic and the Bosnian Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to her work as a conductor and music director, Wittry is also a noted author. Beyond the Baton: What Every Conductor Needs to Know offers a comprehensive roadmap to a successful career as a conductor. Published by Oxford University Press, the book was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2007.
THE BOSNIA MEMORY PROJECT AT FONTBONNE UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

By Dr. Ben Moore

Deborah Mraz, a senior history major at Fontbonne University, sits across a table from Ejrin Hodžić, who was born in 1986 in Velika Kladuša. Deborah and Ejrin are forty-five minutes into what will be a two-hour interview—an oral history that will serve as a permanent record of Ejrin’s memories of war and genocide in Bosnia Herzegovina and subsequent immigration to St. Louis. A voice recorder lies on the table in front of Ejrin, and behind it a small video camera records his contemplative expression. Ejrin speaks softly. “I remember when I was little. I was playing around this fence, and the alarm sounded, like they do here for bad weather. I got stuck on it—I got stuck on the fence. And I heard the grenades start to fall. In that moment, I don’t know what to do. This one soldier runs up to me and just rips me off the fence. He didn’t rip my skin off, but he rips these little shorts that I have on. He threw me into this little area where I would be protected. I never knew who the guy was, and neither did my family. I never saw him after that.”

Deborah Mraz interviewing Ejrin Hodžić for the Bosnia Memory Project

Deborah is one of many dozens of students who have participated in Fontbonne’s Bosnia Memory Project, which is dedicated to advancing understanding of the Bosnian genocide and the Bosnian diaspora. Ejrin is one of many dozens of Bosnian-Americans who have come to the Fontbonne campus to assist, and he is helping in the most profound way possible: by letting us record his story. Deborah and Ejrin’s interaction that afternoon last March illustrates several of the essential assumptions underlying the Bosnia Memory Project’s collaborative work. We believe that the Bosnian diaspora is a vitally important part of our community and that we have a great deal to learn from our Bosnian neighbors. We also believe that the best people to tell the story of the Bosnian diaspora are Bosnians and that each person’s story is important and worth being heard. Finally, we believe that universities like Fontbonne can help to collect, preserve, and transmit the Bosnian diaspora’s individual and collective memories of survival and adaptation. In fact, we feel that we have a special obligation to do so, in part because St. Louis has the largest Bosnian diaspora community in the world.

Fontbonne’s engagement with the Bosnian community began in late 2006, when my colleague Dr. Jack Luzkow and I decided to team-teach a course about the Bosnian genocide. Because we wanted our students to understand history from the point of view of people who were most affected by it, we looked for ways to bring Bosnian genocide survivors into our class. With the help of Patrick McCarthy and Amir Karadžić, who were planning a museum exhibit about Prijedor, we began interviewing survivors from Prijedor who were now living in St. Louis. During the spring of 2007, our students interviewed eleven such survivors, and selections from these interviews became an important part of the multimedia exhibit Prijedor: Lives from the Bosnian Genocide, which opened at St. Louis’s Holocaust Museum and Learning Center in November of 2007.

The success of the Prijedor exhibit (it continues to tour the U.S.) impressed upon us the need to continue our engagement with St. Louis’s Bosnian community. Shortly after the exhibit opened, we began the Bosnia Memory Project, which comprises an array of academic and outreach activities, many conducted in collaboration with the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

For example, over the past six years, we have hosted twenty-five Bosnia-related events on the Fontbonne campus, all of them free and open to the public. These events include film screenings, panel discussions, performances of Bosnian music, an art exhibit by Jesenko Kurbašić, and presentations by writers and activists including Ismet Prcić, Ed Vuliamy, and Edin Ramulić. By far the most successful of these events was the recent Being Bosnian symposium, which reached a
wide and diverse audience while taking our ongoing conversation about the Bosnian diaspora to a new level of sophistication.

We have also offered several Bosnia-related courses, laying the groundwork for what we hope will one day be a program in Bosnian studies. Every year, Dr. Luzkow and I team-teach an interdisciplinary course titled “The Bosnian Immigration: Narrative, Memory, and Identity,” which combines history, film, literature, and face-to-face conversation with Bosnian genocide survivors. In addition, visiting professor Elana Haviv, founder and director of the Children’s Movement for Creative Education, has taught classes focused on teaching the Bosnian genocide to middle school and high school students. Nasja Bošković Meyer has taught classes in Bosnian and Croatian language.

At the heart of the Bosnian Memory Project are ongoing collection and preservation efforts, which are closely linked to our curricular offerings. One of our most important activities is developing an archive of documents and recorded interviews that reflect the experiences of Bosnian immigrants and their families. We are interested in interviewing anyone from the Bosnia Herzegovina, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or level of education; only in this way will we be able to establish a finely variegated record that, in the future, will help to refute the stereotypes and oversimplification that so often mar historical accounts. In developing this archive, we are looking decades into the future, because we want these materials to be available to the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Bosnians who have recently immigrated to St. Louis. Twenty-one years after the start of the war and genocide, we are entering a critical period for conducting this research: the people who remember life before genocide are growing older, and younger Bosnian-Americans who have no first-hand memories of life before diaspora are becoming adults.

Fontbonne students like Deborah sometimes participate in these historical preservation efforts by conducting interviews, and they typically find the process to be one of the most important experiences of their education. Deborah notes that “the interview with Ejoyr opened up a whole new avenue of trust, understanding and respect that I had for him. I feel that I share a bond with Ejoyr when he relayed events and his experiences that he hasn’t shared with or spoken about with anyone else.” Fontbonne alumna Maggie Sullivan concurs. “The Bosnia Memory Project was the most impactful and ultimately the most valuable project I worked on throughout my four years at Fontbonne. It forever changed my world view.”

In the near future, we will also be engaging Bosnian-American high school students in our collection and preservation efforts—partly because these students are a link to the parents and grandparents who carry important memories and wisdom, and partly because we want to strengthen younger Bosnian-Americans’ understanding of their forebears’ cultures and experiences. Beginning next year, Fontbonne will award college credit to students at nearby Affton High School in exchange for their completion of a Fontbonne-sponsored course about Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their coursework will include interviewing older Bosnian-Americans, and these oral histories will become a permanent part of the Bosnia Memory Project’s collections. Over the coming months, we hope to establish similar agreements with other area high schools that also have large Bosnian populations.

Our future plans for the Bosnia Memory Project are ambitious. My dream is to one day see in St. Louis a Center for Bosnian Studies that includes a research facility, a permanent exhibit, and staff and faculty with the expertise and vision to conduct meaningful research, teaching, and community outreach, all at a high level. Whether or not such a dream is attainable depends in part on the funding we are able to secure over the coming years. In the meantime, we will stay focused on what is of enduring value, as we continue to engage the memories and voices of our Bosnian neighbors in an ongoing and evolving conversation.

For more information, please visit: www.fontbonne.edu/bosnia
5 AMERICAN MUSICIANS CHOSEN FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH SARAJEVO PHILHARMONIC

Five young American musicians have been selected for an International Cultural Exchange program that will take them to Bosnia-Herzegovina for 10 months to perform with the Sarajevo Philharmonic. Megan Robbins, Oboe, from Denver, Colorado; Andrea Baker, Bassoon, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Jessica Santiago, French Horn, from New York; Allyson Schuler, French Horn, from Cincinnati, Ohio; and Justin Croushore, Trombone, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, will perform in opera, ballet and symphonic concerts from September 2013 through July 2014.

The International Cultural Exchange program is coordinated and sponsored by the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences (BHAAAS) in cooperation with the Sarajevo Philharmonic.

The Sarajevo Philharmonic was founded in 1923 and has played an important role in shaping the musical life of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Sarajevo Philharmonic is a full-time orchestra that currently performs in the National Theatre in Sarajevo and tours throughout the region.

The Sarajevo Philharmonic operated without interruptions throughout the siege of Sarajevo from 1993-1995. Although Sarajevo was exposed to daily bombardment from the surrounding hills which killed over 10,000 of its citizens, the Philharmonic held nine concerts in the 1993-1994 season, 21 concerts in the 1994-1995 season, and 41 concerts in the 1995-1996 season. Out of those 41 concerts, 10 were held prior to November 1995, when the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed. The Philharmonic lost two musicians during the siege.

The International Cultural Exchange Program for Classical Musicians starts in September 2013 and the participants will return to the United States in July 2014. Selection of the musicians was done by Conductor and Artistic Director Diane Wittry, who is a BHAAAS international member; Samra Gulamovic, director and conductor of the Sarajevo Philharmonic; and Eldin E. Karaikovic, BHAAAS project director.

BHAAAS LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Since its inception in 2007, BHAAAS has had 16 members of its Board of Directors. Per BHAAAS Statute, there are two types of Board of Directors positions - General Board and Executive Board positions. The term for General Board positions is 2 years. At the completion of their term General Board members step down and are replaced by new members.

Current General Board members are:


When a member of the Board is elected to the Executive Board, he or she is on ”Presidential” track, meaning he or she is first elected to a position of Secretary, then Treasurer, Second Vice-President, First Vice-President, President and finally Immediate Past President. All these positions have a 1 year term. Once a term for the Immediate Past President expires, he or she leaves the Board of Directors and other individuals rotate as specified above.

Since the rotation which occurred at our Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL in October 2012 –

Current members of BHAAAS Executive Board are:

Andi Arnautovic, MD - President
Gordan Srkalovic, MD, PhD - Vice President
Esad Boskailo, MD - Second Vice President
Azra Terzich, EdD - Secretary
Patrick McCarthy, MSc, MA - Executive Board Member at Large
Igor Lemajic, MBA - Treasurer
Djenita Pasic, Esq., JD - Former President
Indira Arnautovic, MD - Technical Director
Since 2010, BHAAAS has instituted its Advisory Committee composed of former Presidents – Mirsad Hadzikadic, Eldin Karaikovic, Aleksandar Hemon, Kenan Arnautovic, Djenita Pasic, as well as the current president Andi Arnautovic, and the VP Gordan Srkalovic. All members of the above bodies, and otherwise all BHAAAS members, perform their services for BHAAAS voluntarily and free of charge.

**BHAAAS Staff**

Since its inception, BHAAAS also has had a technical director, Dr. Indira Arnautovic, who has maintained membership information and contacts, has provided all communication with members, has organized conference calls and otherwise supported the work of BHAAAS. In 2012 BHAAAS added a position: technical secretary in BiH and Mrs. Slavica Hrnkas resumed part of the secretarial work.

As of 2010, BHAAAS has engaged Mr. Adnan Karaikovic in Sarajevo to obtain sponsorship support for “Dani BHAAAS in BiH” as an independent contractor. Mr. Karaikovic has also volunteered to assist BHAAAS in registering its representative office in BiH, which has been effective as of March, 2011.

**Sections**

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 (almerguitar@yahoo.com)

_Science:_ Emir Hodzic (ehodzic@ucdavis.edu)

_The mission of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences (BHAAAS) is the 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, artists 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 among the Diaspora in the belief that knowledge is shareable wealth._
Bosnian Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts & Sciences
BHAAAS.org

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