UMD Annual Report 2013

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The United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) is a leading international non-governmental organization promoting the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities worldwide.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., UMD has built a formidable operations network throughout the U.S., Australia, Canada, and Europe, with membership spanning six continents.

UMD Objectives

- Safeguarding the rights of Macedonians around the world
- Unifying the Macedonian Diaspora
- Collaborating with the greater international community by promoting universal ideals of peace, freedom, self-determination, equality, and justice
- Promoting the ethnic Macedonian ethnic heritage and identity
- Preserving Macedonian traditions via educational, social, and charitable programs

UMD Policy Issues

- Supporting the Republic of Macedonia’s constitutional and rightful name
- Defending the Macedonian ethnic and national identity internationally
- Safeguarding the human rights of Macedonians everywhere
- Improving bilateral relations between Macedonia and the nations in which UMD operates
- Supporting the Republic of Macedonia’s membership in regional and international organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union

UMD recognizes that the success and well being of Macedonian communities worldwide is essential for the success and well being of Macedonia.

UMD’s efforts are undertaken by professional staff, interns and volunteers, and coordinated from its international headquarters in Washington, D.C. along with regional offices and representatives serving Macedonian communities in: Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere.
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Zlatko Nikolovski, Vienna, Austria
Zhikica Pagovski, Washington, D.C./Maryland/Virginia
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Goce Peroski, Stuttgart, Germany
Dejan Petkovski, Houston, Texas
Claude Zoran Spasevski, Paris, France

UMD Advisory Council
The UMD Advisory Council is a multi-sector advisory group. Membership on the UMD Advisory Council comes by invitation from the UMD Board of Directors, and drawn from the worlds of the arts, business, and public service. UMD benefits greatly from the UMD Advisory Council members’ experiences in a variety of fields to further assist in our mission, particularly in the establishment of innovative partnerships with relevant institutions worldwide.

Ambassador Ljubica Z. Acevska
Chris Antoniou
George Atanasoski
Tale Buling
Dana L. Klein
George Koroloff
George Markou
Mark B. Mitsovski
Jerry Naumoff
Elizabeth Naumovski
Jim Pavle
Chris Stanwyck
Thomas N. Taneff
Glogor Tashkovich
Nicholas Thaw
Lou Vlasho

UMD Voice
UMD Voice is UMD’s quarterly magazine and the premier publication for the Macedonian Diaspora. UMD Voice is distributed to UMD members in a printed edition; it can also be downloaded from the UMD website. Each issue of UMD Voice is generally downloaded approximately 25,000 times from the UMD website upon the publication of each issue.

The magazine reaches out to a very wide range of people, of all ages and professions, from all over the world. Aside from stories about Macedonia itself, UMD Voice is also your source of news about UMD events, as well as feature interviews with prominent Macedonians in the Diaspora, and features about Macedonia and the Balkans, including human rights, economic development, tourism, culture and many other topics of interest.
UMD Operations Expand Across Europe

UMD further expanded its operations into Europe with the appointment of Filip Altiparmakovski as UMD’s The Netherlands Representative, Igor Danajlovski as UMD’s Dusseldorf/Germany Representative, and Goce Peroski as UMD’s Stuttgart/Germany Representative. Altiparmakovski will cover Brussels as well temporarily until UMD appoints a representative directly based out of Brussels. The new appointments join already existing UMD European representatives covering Austria, France, Greece, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

New Officers, Board Members and Volunteers

Two women were selected to serve as the newest members of the global UMD Board of Directors – Natalia Buling-Betinski of Chicago, Illinois and Vera Najdovska of Windsor, Canada. Buling-Betinski will serve as UMD Director of Charitable Efforts, while Najdovska will be UMD Director of Cultural Awareness.

Vera Arsova was selected as first ever New York City Regional Representative.

Ana Dukoska was selected as the first UMD New Jersey Regional Representative.

UMD Advisory Council Member and Macedonian Companion Jerry Naumoff was appointed and confirmed by Macedonia’s Parliament in May 2013, to become the new Macedonian Minister for Attracting Foreign Direct Investment. Minister Naumoff will remain an Honorary Advisory Council Member.
UMD heavily invests in the education of Macedonians worldwide, and throughout 2012, and 2013, undertook efforts to improve Macedonians’ education.

UMD runs a Fellows program in the area of **International Policy and Diplomacy**.

These internship opportunities are designed for undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in Macedonia and journalism, public relations, human rights, advocacy, government, or the non-profit sector.

The 2013 UMD International Policy and Diplomacy Fellows worked with UMD at its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Ana Donevska David
Harrison B. Hull
Anna Milovanovich
Brenna Sovine
Zlata Unerkova

Rebecca Sherriffs worked as UMD’s Media/Public Relations Intern based in Perth and UMD’s Social Media Coordinator, Milka Trajkova, managed social media as well as the UMD website from Skopje.

UMD President Metodija A. Koloski has described the fellows as “the future leaders of our communities,” and UMD takes pride in investing in their professional development.
UMD also awarded five scholarships in 2012. The John L.N Bitove Macedonian Heritage Scholarship is named for the well-known philanthropist, businessman and pillar of the global Macedonian community, and it was established to assist Macedonians pursuing undergraduate degrees in Australia, Canada, Europe, and the United States.

Candidates write an essay about the importance of the role of their Macedonian heritage and scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, commitment to civic leadership, and involvement in their Macedonian communities.

UMD has given out around $30,000 to Macedonian students of the Diaspora.

The recipients of UMD’s 2012 John L. N. Bitove, C.M. Macedonian Heritage Scholarship Awards:

**Dragan Gjorgiev**
Chicago
Loyola University
Double-Major in Political Science and Environmental

**Stefan Nicoloff**
Toronto
Christie’s Education
Master’s in Modern and Contemporary Art

**Helen Jankovski**
Toronto
York University
Bachelor of Arts Honors Degree Geography and Urban Studies

**Aleksandra Vuchkovska**
Chicago
Judson University
Bachelor’s Degree in Biochemistry

**Filip Petkovski**
Skopje
Duquesne University
Double Major in Theatre Direction and Multimedia
2013 UMD Awards

On July 5, 2013, UMD Australia held a celebratory Gala in Sydney, Australia attended by then-Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr. Minister Carr received the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award, alongside Co-Chairs of the Australia-Macedonia Parliamentary Friendship Group, Luke Simpkins, MP and Stephen Jones, MP. Mr. Jones and Mr. Simpkins have worked tirelessly to strengthen the bonds of friendship between Australia and Macedonia, and UMD strongly believes that the Australian-Macedonian community could not ask for better friends and advocates for equal human rights for Macedonians. Mr. Jones and Mr. Simpkins have both repeatedly called on the Government to take the right decision of recognizing Macedonia by its constitutional name. UMD hopes that soon Australia will end this unjust policy of referring to Macedonia under any other name but Macedonia.

During the same Gala in Sydney, UMD presented its Global UMD Lifetime Achievement Award to one of the first Macedonian community leaders in Australia, Mick Veloskey. He has been active for over 70 years, and in that time has helped establish newspapers, churches, human rights groups, and other community organizations in Australia.

Later in the year, on October 5, 2013, UMD Canada held a Gala in Windsor, Ontario, in honor of former Canadian Ambassador to Finland, Ambassador Chris Shapardanov. Ambassador Shapardanov received the Global UMD Macedonian Heritage Public Service Award. The Windsor Star newspaper prominently covered the event and featured pictures in their print and online versions.
UMD worked throughout 2013 to facilitate events promoting and advancing Macedonian culture, including cross-cultural events so that Macedonian and non-Macedonian friends could participate in cultural exchanges, and learn about Macedonian culture.

On January 31, 2013, UMD was a sponsor of the East Coast United States premiere of The Third Half, Macedonia’s Oscar submission. The film premiered at the 16th CAJE Miami Jewish Film Festival. Set in Macedonia following the Nazi invasion and based on a true story, the film follows the fortunes of FC Macedonia, as their German-Jewish coach Rudolph Spitz leads them to victory in a championship in the Nazi Soccer League. It is also about a love affair between the team’s best player, and a beautiful wealthy Jewish girl that is based on the true story of Neta Kohan.

On March 30, 2013, UMD congratulated the Grigor Prlicev Macedonian Literary Society and Library in Sydney, Australia as they marked their 35th Anniversary. The Library, named after the well-known Macedonian author Grigor Prlicev, was founded on March 31, 1978 by a group of enthusiastic members of the Australian-Macedonian community in Sydney in order to preserve, study, and promote the Macedonian language and literary works. UMD President Metodija A. Koloski spoke before Society members at the Library back in February 2010.

UMD hosted distinguished professor Dr. Christina Kramer of the University of Toronto, and Chair of the Slavic Language and Linguistics Department for two discussions on the Macedonian language over the last century and the works of Macedonian author – Ambassador Luan Starova. On April 17, 2013, at the UMD office, she presented a paper on the changes the Macedonian language has undergone in the last century since the partition following the 1913 Treaty of Bucharest. On April 18, 2013, the European Division of the Library of Congress hosted a presentation.
On July 25, 2013, during the 4th UMD Global Conference, UMD organized an evening of **Macedonian Cultural Celebration and Dancing**. The program for evening events began with a night celebrating Macedonian music and dance. The evening started off with a reception and the opening of an exhibit of local Macedonian artists sponsored by the Skopje and Miami-based NGO Art Studio, UMD Macedonian Companions member Irena Gapkovska, and UMD Advisory Council Member Nicholas Thaw. The exhibit continued throughout the full three-day conference. Following the exhibit opening, artists performed not only popular music from the country, but also traditional music of the people (narodna), featuring historical instruments and music styles to Macedonian composition. Participating musicians included one of Macedonia's representatives to Eurovision 2013, and top pop-star, Vlatko Lozanoski Lozano, arranger, conductor, and teacher of traditional music and instrumentation, Bajsa Arifovska, and Macedonian ethno band, Kalevala. The evening continued with a spectacular dance performance by the Vlado Tasevski Macedonian Folk Dance Ensemble, and ended with members of the ensemble inviting guests to join them in dancing and celebrating the various types of oro, traditional Macedonian dances.

Following the conference, from July 28-August 2, 2013, UMD organized cultural tours throughout Macedonia, and visited Mala Prespa, in Albania, and Edessa (Voden), in Greece. The tours, conducted by professional tour guide Vasilka Dimitrovska, concluded with a visit to Krusevo for the Ilinden Uprising Anniversary commemoration.

On October 7, 2013, a special poetry evening was held at the UMD office in Washington, D.C. featuring **Dr. Natasha Garrett** and Nola Garrett. “Poetry translation is a form of cultural advocacy, because it presents to a wider audience an aspect of Macedonian arts and culture than would otherwise not be available. It certainly opened up a cross-cultural conversation between my mother-in-law and myself,” stated Dr. Natasha Garrett. “I am interested in writing about what it feels like to live between cultures, and how challenging such life can be, even when it’s voluntary.”

On October 17-18, 2013, the UMD Greece Representative Eugenia Natsoulidou attended the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) Steering Committee Seminar in Dublin, Ireland. Natsoulidou, as the representative of the Educative and Cultural Movement of Edessa, attended the Seminar in an effort to shed light on the dire state of the Macedonian language in Greece. UMD is actively engaged in promoting the Macedonian language, especially in the countries where there is a sizeable Macedonian community.
Charitable Activity

Three Ajvar 5K Run Walk Events

Charity on behalf of the Macedonian community, both domestic and abroad, is one of the pillars of UMD’s mission and contributes considerably to the organization’s global reach.

In honor of the 22nd Anniversary of Macedonian Independence on September 8, 2013, three Ajvar 5K Run/Walk events were held in Washington DC; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and New York City.

UMD co-partnered to organize the events with Ajvar, LLC, University of Michigan’s Macedonian-American Student Associations, and Oakland University’s Macedonian-American Student Association and raised funds for needy children in Macedonia. Over $8,000.00 were raised at the three events. A portion of the proceeds were donated to the 11th October Orphanage in Skopje, Macedonia, and in an effort for Americans of Macedonian heritage to give back to the local community, the Macedonian-American Student Associations donated $2,000 raised from the Ann Arbor 5K toward the local Ann Arbor Ronald McDonald House to help children in need.

Helping Macedonian Patients in Need

In summer of 2013, UMD held its first Dr. Ifran Maksudov Memorial Clinic in Strumica, Macedonia and the surrounding villages of Angelci and Banica. The widespread medical attention helped more than 330 patients, including children and the elderly, to receive free medical exams and free medication.

The free mobile Clinic, spearheaded by Virginia-based UMD member Narcis Maksudova-Moshrefi, comprised a medical team of American and Macedonian doctors and nurses, notably Dr. Diane Taficante, Dr. Vancouver Mancev, Dr. Darinka Lapevska-Maksudova, Natasha Goriceva and Daniela Mafkova. The treatment included basic medial examination, preventive vaccinations, and free medicines.

The goal was to provide relief to the flood-stricken Strumica region after the devastating floods in February 2012. Proceeds were raised by the local UMD operations based in Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland.
UMD serves as a leading voice for Macedonia and always works to educate the public, policy makers, and governmental officials around the world about Macedonia and Macedonian issues.

UMD has been and remains a leading voice in the on going international efforts to secure Macedonia’s place within NATO, a place that the country has already earned by its actions, and tirelessly works to counter the assault on Macedonia’s name cultural identity and history by those who attempt to deny Macedonia and the Macedonian people their name, cultural identity and history.

**UMD works to help Macedonia join NATO and EU**

UMD President Metodija A. Koloski traveled to Belgium and Macedonia February 11-27, 2013. While in Brussels, Koloski was joined by UMD Stuttgart, Germany Representative Goce Peroski, UMD Greece Representative Eugenia Natsoulioud, and UMD Netherlands Representative Filip Altiparmakovski. UMD strongly believes that investing in engaging in high-level diplomacy yields valuable insights and productive outcomes in support of Macedonia and the Macedonian people.

The primary purpose of Koloski’s visit to Macedonia was to further the preparation for the 4th UMD Global Conference. On separate occasions, Koloski met with U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia, Ambassador Paul Wohlers, President Gjorge Ivanov’s National Security Advisor Darko Kostadinovski, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs State Secretary Vlado Misajlovski, Member of the Macedonian Parliament representative North America Pavle Sazdov, Members of the Macedonian Parliament Radmila Sekerinska and Tanja Tomic, and the Agency of Emigration Director Vasil Naumov to discuss Macedonian foreign policy issues as well as the Diaspora viewpoints on current affairs.
On February 13, 2013, Koloski delivered a speech regarding how advocacy works in Washington, D.C. at the Mother Theresa School of Public Policy in Skopje to current and past students. The School is run by the Center for Research and Policy Making.

On February 16, 2013, Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski welcomed Koloski and UMD Macedonian Companions Member and Macedonia 2025 Board Member Chris Pavlovski to the Government Building in Skopje. During the meeting, Pavlovski and Koloski highlighted Diaspora engagement in the economic sector of Macedonia. Pavlovski, who owns Cosmic Development, an IT firm in Skopje stressed to the Prime Minister the need to further Macedonia as a type of “Silicon Valley of Southeast Europe,” having great potential for the IT industry. Koloski encouraged the Prime Minister to evaluate the possibility to re-establish the Ministry of Diaspora to better coordinate links between the Diaspora and the homeland.

On February 18-21, 2013, UMD continued on to Brussels to encourage further support for Macedonia’s EU and NATO membership. While at NATO Headquarters, the UMD Delegation met with NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security Mari Skare, Macedonian Ambassador to NATO, Ambassador Martin Trenevski, and the U.S., Canadian, and Turkish Missions to NATO. This was the largest delegation of UMD representatives to ever visit NATO Headquarters. UMD thanks Ambassador and Mrs. Trenevski and the entire Macedonian Mission to NATO for their hospitality during the visit.

UMD also met with the Macedonian Ambassador to Belgium, Ambassador Lazar Elenevski, the Macedonian Ambassador to the European Union, Ambassador Andrej Lepavcov, the Office of Baroness Catherine Ashton at the European External Action Service, the Office of the European Commissioner for Enlargement, as well as Members of the European Parliament.

On February 25, 2013, Koloski and Natsoulidou joined by Educative and Cultural Movement of Edessa Member Petre Kazias and UMD Social Media Coordinator Milka Trajkova held a press briefing before around thirty Macedonian journalists to discuss latest developments facing the Macedonian native community in Greece. UMD reiterated its long-held policy of calling on the Macedonian Government to withdraw from the talks at the UN over Macedonia’s rightful and constitutional name. On the same day, meetings were held with President Ivanov’s Domestic Policy Advisor Gordica Karanfilovska to discuss ways to collaborate with Ivanov School for Young Leaders, and with Goran Torbakov, in charge of Diaspora affairs for the Office of Prime Minister Gruevski.

On December 6, 2013, The Hill's International Relations Blog Global Affairs published UMD President Metodija A. Koloski’s op-ed “Time for US to take sides in dispute over Macedonia’s name.” The Hill has a readership of over 400,000 and their Global Affairs Blog is quite popular among Congress staff and leaders.
2013 marked the 100th anniversary since the division of Macedonian lands. In that century, Macedonia and Macedonians endured many changes, including the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, the partition and annexation of lands into other governments, and the realization of an independent Macedonian state.

To commemorate this bittersweet anniversary, UMD decided to host its 4th Global Conference in the Republic of Macedonia.

From July 24 – July 27, 2013, Macedonians and friends of Macedonia from twenty-six countries descended on Skopje to participate in a dialogue of what the last 100 years have meant for Macedonia and Macedonians.

The chosen theme of the conference – Macedonia 2013: 100 Years After the Treaty of Bucharest – was intended to provide a space and forum for guests and participants to gather and have an honest discussion on the events and decisions that Macedonia and Macedonians experienced over the span of a century.

For the first-time ever, UMD decided to feature a full academic conference within its overall global conference. UMD and its academic team wanted to encourage professors, researchers, and journalists to continue producing objective research on Macedonian issues. The interdisciplinary academic conference provided an opportunity for professors and other experts on Macedonian matters to present their research that revealed truths and questions about Macedonia. Participants were selected from abstracts that were submitted to UMD’s Call for Abstracts, advertised in major journals, organizations, associations, and research institutions around the world. 44 scholars from 12 countries participated. The papers will be compiled into a Journal for publication at a later date. Videos of the entire conference can be found on UMD’s YouTube page.

“The weekend-long conference was a first of its kind unique opportunity for our leaders to come to a central location to network with each other, meet U.S. government representatives, and leaders of other established ethnic organizations,” said UMD Director of U.S. Operations Trajko Papuckoski. “By strengthening Macedonian-American organizations and collaborating together, we can accomplish more for our community.”

April 11th started off with the first official visit to Washington, D.C. by His Eminence Metropolitan Metodi of the American-Canadian Macedonian Orthodox Diocese. As part of his agenda, Metropolitan Metodi visited the U.S. Congress to meet with long-standing friends of Macedonia and the Macedonian-American community, Congresswoman Candice Miller of Michigan, who is founder and chair of Macedonia Caucus, and Congressman Bill Pascrell of New Jersey, a member of the Macedonia Caucus.

April 12th featured Hill meetings, followed by a roundtable on international religious freedom issues affecting the Macedonian Orthodox Church in Southeast Europe. Later, guests participated in a roundtable discussion on U.S.-Macedonia relations with the Director of the Office of South Central European Affairs at the U.S. Department of State Jonathan Moore, and Macedonia Desk Officer Anne Barghetta.

April 13th kicked off with remarks by Metropolitan Metodi on the role of the Macedonian Orthodox Church in the United States, followed by His Excellency Dr. Zoran Jolevski, Ambassador of Macedonia to the U.S. on current affairs in Macedonia and its relations with the U.S. Guests were particularly interested in economic development opportunities in Macedonia. UMD Fellow Ana David, and UMD and UMAD Board Member George Peters then provided for the guests grassroots advocacy training on how to best communicate with U.S. policymakers and stakeholders. Igor Dabik, a student at
Georgetown University, Borko Handjiski who works at the World Bank, and Zhikica Pagovski, a student at American University and UMD’s Washington, D.C./Maryland/Virginia Representative spoke about building lasting relationships in Washington, D.C. and within the Macedonian-American community. Dabik and Pagovski also discussed current affairs in Macedonia and the effect and role the Macedonian-American community can play.

The Director of the Washington Office of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Melanie Maron Pell spoke about the work of the AJC, its diplomatic engagement, its annual Global Forum and ACCESS Summit, programs for youth and young professionals, as well as its work within the overall Jewish-American community. Lydia Borland followed next by talking about the role of the Turkish-American community and its efforts to build greater support in the U.S. Congress.

Lunch featured a panel with three Macedonian-American rising stars, George Hadijski, Director of Member and Committee Services, House Administration Committee, Gregory Michaelidis, Director of Speechwriting, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Marina Veljanovska, Judicial Clerk, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and UMD Founder/Past Board Member.

Following lunch, Biljana Belamaric Wilsey, Executive Director of the Macedonian Language E-Learning Center spoke through Skype conference call on the importance of preserving the Macedonian language in the United States, especially through children’s language books for the next generation. The panel Giving Back to Macedonia featured Beti Arsovska, AJVAR 5K RUN/WALK, which discussed her efforts to raise funds for orphans in Macedonia through sports events like a run/walk, Nikola Labudovski, Macedonian Orthodox Philanthropic Society discussing their annual golf tournament in Columbus, Ohio to help the community, and George Peters, UMD and United Macedonian-Americans of Detroit Board Member, discussing UMAD’s work to help orphans in Macedonia and students by providing scholarships. The working portion of MALC2013 concluded with a discussion on passing the torch to our next generation of leaders with Zhikica Pagovski providing training on how to be a leader.

That evening, UMD, together with its partner and sponsor of the MALC2013, Realington, one of the fastest real estate development companies in the greater Washington, D.C. hosted a reception at the Embassy of Macedonia in support of flood relief efforts in Strumica raising funds for a free health clinic for the poor. Over 150 guests participated, including a couple of Macedonian guests from Sydney, Australia who were in D.C. sightseeing, and enjoyed Macedonian food, and Stobi wine provided by the Balkan Wine Project. The Macedonian oro dancing ended a wonderful evening and a great conclusion to a hopeful annual Macedonian-American Leadership Conference.
On Saturday, April 27, 2013, UMD hosted an all-day event, which was the first of its kind - the Canadian Macedonian Leadership Conference 2013 (#CMLC2013). Held at Sveti Kliment Ohridski Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral in Toronto, the vision of CMLC2013 was to bring together about 50 leaders from Toronto’s many cultural and faith-based Macedonian organizations: to interact, to network, and to share effective methods in leadership, fundraising, educational advocacy, and civic engagement in Canadian society. A great deal of focus during the CMLC2013 was put on student/youth community engagement, best ways to tell the Macedonian story in Canada, and how to promote our rich cultural heritage in Canada.

CMLC2013 brought together UMD representatives from Toronto, Montreal, Detroit, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C., as well as the United Macedonians Organization of Canada, Macedonian Orthodox Churches in Toronto and Hamilton, the Canadian Macedonian Place Foundation, the Canadian Macedonian Historical Society, the Macedonian Business Association of Canada, the Macedonian Film Festival, Children’s Relief Fund, Macedonian Edition TV, Makdonija newspaper, Macedonia Radio, MakMedia.ca, university student leaders, and Macedonian government representatives, including keynote speakers His Excellency Ambassador Ljuben Tevdovski and the Honourable Pavle Sazdov, North American Member of Macedonia’s Parliament.

UMD Chairman Stojan Nikolov said: “Although organized by UMD, this event belongs to all of us. United, we are stronger, and we can achieve so much more. Macedonians understand the phrase ‘divide and conquer’ all too well, as it has been used against us, and we are still living it. But there is a common bond that we all share. Safeguarding Macedonian human rights, promoting Macedonian culture and language, defending our identity and our country’s one and only constitutional name... on these core issues, we all agree, and today, we strengthen this bond.”

UMD Council Member Chris Stanwyck added: “In our Canadian Macedonian community, we need to be united. We need to pool our resources and be more efficient with our dollars. Teamwork is the best way to have our interests served and to have our voices heard.”

Later in the year, in November 2013, UMD Advisory Council Member and Vice President, Marketing at Caldwell Securities, Ltd. Elizabeth Naumovski hosted the Foreign Minister of Macedonia, Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki to meet with Caldwell Securities’ Founder and Chairman Thomas S. Caldwell, C.M. Mr. Caldwell was the keynote speaker of the 2nd UMD Global Conference in 2010.
In February 2013, a delegation from UMD Australia led by Ordan Andreevski and the Macedonian Community Council of Victoria met with the new Australian Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Hon. Brendan O’Connor MP. The meeting took place at the Minister’s electoral office in Caroline Springs in Melbourne’s western suburbs, which has a significant number of Macedonians in its multicultural mix. Ordan Andreevski took the opportunity of this meeting to not only congratulate the new minister, but to also discuss the ways O’Connor can strengthen the relationship between Australia and Macedonia. An array of key issues were covered between the two during the session, leaving no stone unturned.

In March 2013, UMD Australia’s Representative for the ACT and Queanbeyan, Mr. Martin Nikoloski, met with the new Australian Minister for Defense Material, the Hon. Dr. Mike Kelly MP. Dr. Kelly is also the Labor Member for the federal seat of Eden-Monaro, which has a large percentage of Macedonians, especially from Ohrid, Struga and other parts of Macedonia and the broader Balkans region. At the meeting, UMD Australia offered its congratulations and discussed the future of Macedonia-Australia relations.

In April 2013, UMD Australia had been officially thanked for its valuable contribution to the Parliament of Australia, Joint Standing Committee on Migration report on the ‘Inquiry into Migration and Multiculturalism in Australia’ based on its written submission. The report was a unique opportunity to convey UMD’s views on a range of important and timely issues that were part of the terms of reference. UMD Australia has also made submissions to the Australian Parliament on strategies to increase the impact of Australia’s Overseas Representation and to improve the Effectiveness of Australia’s International Development Assistance Program.
Alluding to Alexander the Great’s famous Companions, the most effective cavalry unit of the ancient world, the Macedonian Companions Program enables those who wish to support UMD to play an active role in securing its prosperous future.

Companions play an integral role in the mission of UMD by preserving the name, identity, and culture of the Macedonian Republic, educating global policymakers about Macedonian issues, participating in charitable projects for or by Macedonians, and perpetuating the vitality and legitimacy of our historical and cultural legacies for generations to come.

UMD understands the essential role the Companions play in fulfilling our organizational mission. Companions are welcomed and honored guests at all nationwide and international UMD events and are critical in inspiring and mobilizing support for the UMD at a grass-roots level.

Companions pledge a tax-deductible donation of $1,000 (or more) annually for three years, thus guaranteeing the continued operative efficacy UMD and its efforts. By supporting UMD financially, Companions engage actively in the program’s campaign to provide a voice for Macedonian people worldwide.

In light of the attacks against the Macedonian identity, it is essential that we present an active and unified front that is financially equipped to effectively disseminate information about and on behalf of the Macedonian people. UMD is the Macedonian people’s answer to a history of international ambivalence and neglect and will continue to carry out this vital role through empowering contributions and support.
There are presently 117 active Macedonian Companions globally out of a goal of 300:

Olga Aceska
Ambassador Ljubica Z. Acevska
Aleksandar Andreski
Chris Antoniou
Saso Arsovski
George Atanasoski
Stephanie Atseff
Alexander Ballios
Donco Bauloski
Odyssey Belchevsky
Jim Bilkas
John L. N. Bitove, C.M.
Jordan Bitove
Thomas J. Bitove, O.Ont.
Vonna Bitove
Cane Carovski
Snezana Carovska
Srecko Cvetanov
Dr. George Daicoff
Jim Daikos
Dr. Dragi Denkovski
Slave Dimitrov
Evelyn Dinu
Irena Gapkovska
Boris Giourof
Katarina Giourof
Andy Givelas
Dr. Robert Givelas
Mike Grebovski
Alexander Iltitch
Carole Iltitch
Christina Iltitch
Denise Iltitch, Esq.
Marian Iltitch
Melanie Iltitch
Michael Iltitch
Michael Iltitch, Jr.
Michael Iltitch, III
Nick Iltitch
Noelle Iltitch
Tony Joseski
George Klas

Dana Klein
Metodija A. Koloski
Dame Krkoski
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Jason Miko
Aleksandar Mitreski
Mark Mitskovski
Dr. Anastos Mukoski
Glenn Murray
Lisa Ilitch Murray
Toby Murray
Troy Murray
Toby Murray
Dimitar Nasev
Thomas Nastoff
Jerry Naumoff
Lou Nestorovski
Stojan Nikolov
Marko Nikolovski
Boris Nitchoff
Constantine Nitchoff
Chris G. Paliare O.Ont.
Trajko Papuckoski
Robert Pasquale
Chris Pavlovski
George Peters
Elena Peterska
Gus Philippov
James Phillips
Steve Pliakas
Bosko Rajcowski
Olga Veloff Sandolowich
Rob Sandolowich
Donald Sazdanoff
Vlado Serdenkovski

Vlado Smilevski
Chris Stanwyck
Kosta Stanwyck
Tom Stanwyck
Dr. Chris Stefanovich
Chris Sterjovski
Eli I. Terpo
Nicholas Thaw
Stan Thomas
Celeste Benjamin Tracy
Stojan Trajkov & Dusanka Delovska-Trajkova
Marilyn Trentos
Dr. Kiril Trpkov
Dr. Biljana Trpkova
Ivan Trposki
Greg Tsanis
Lubi Uzunovski
George Vassos/ Barry Kuretzky
Lou Vlasho
Mike Zafirovski
Anonymous (3)
2013 was overall a very productive year for UMD. With the Board’s approval UMD shifted major usage of its available funds, 68% of the operational budget, to educational and philanthropic programs. Such programs include events like, the 4th Global Conference that was held in Macedonia, the leadership conferences held in Washington, D.C. and Canada, scholarships, stipends for our fellows, Ajvar5K races, and more.

We closed the year with a negative change in net assets of $14,322. We did not meet our expectations on registration revenue, with respect to the annual conference, therefore we used some of our reserved funds to support UMDs operations for 2013. We exceeded our expectations on membership dues and donations that reached $201,184 and UMD sincerely thanks you!

It is imperative to reach a sustainable operational budget for UMD in 2014 and 2015 and it is our main focus to serve our members and their best interest as always!

We are happy to hear your suggestions or thoughts on what UMD can do for you! Please e-mail UMD Treasurer Lidija Stojkoska at treasurer@umdiaspora.org with any questions or suggestions.
Statement of Activities - Retrospective Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>$31,747</td>
<td>$70,010</td>
<td>$59,225</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues and Donations</td>
<td>201,184</td>
<td>193,790</td>
<td>157,102</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,834</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMD Voice</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Public Support and Other Revenue</td>
<td>$232,931</td>
<td>$263,800</td>
<td>$238,636</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Operating Expenses

| Educational and Philanthropic Programs | $168,035 | $151,045 | $146,544 | 68% | 61% | 59% |
| Cultural Programs | 32,104 | 39,196 | 15,938 | 13% | 16% | 6% |
| Management and Administrative | 26,290 | 26,357 | 28,890 | 8% | 12% | 12% |
| Special Events and Fundraising | 20,824 | 30,192 | 21,834 | 8% | 12% | 12% |
| Total Expenses | $247,253 | $246,791 | $247,776 | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Change in Net Assets | $(14,322) | $17,009 | $(9,141) |