Throughout 2015, the stalemate regarding Macedonia’s NATO accession continued. Greece continued to block Macedonian membership despite being found in violation by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of their agreement not to hinder Macedonia’s accession. Also, Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama has threatened to veto membership if Macedonia fails to fully implement the Ohrid Framework Agreement.

UMD feels that Macedonia has continuously proven itself worthy of NATO membership. Macedonia has stood as a candidate state for 16 years; all criteria for membership has been fulfilled since 2008. NATO membership is long overdue and Greece has been illogical in its refusal to allow Macedonian accession.

However, Macedonia has many allies in its goal of reaching NATO membership, such as the support of the ICJ. Members of the Congressional Macedonia Caucus, U.S. Senators, Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and leading think tank experts have expressed clear support for Macedonia’s NATO membership.

Macedonia insists that its NATO membership will be beneficial to the Balkan region and to NATO as a whole. UMD and the Macedonian people will continue to strive for this goal despite attempts by Greece to prevent its accession to NATO. Although the campaign for NATO membership is not yet won, UMD is sure that with the support of the world on Macedonia’s side, it will be successful.
OBJECTIVES

- Safeguarding the civil 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 heritage and identity
- Preserving Macedonian traditions via educational, social, and charitable programs

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 EU
UMD believes in the importance of celebrating and promoting excelling leaders of Macedonian heritage and endorsing them as role models for our communities. In 2014, UMD announced its first Macedonian Diaspora’s 40 Under 40. These forty rising members of the Macedonian diaspora from the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia outshine in their areas of expertise, including technology, business, medicine, finance, education, arts, law, and government.
WHAT WE’VE DONE

THIS YEAR

Advocacy
Leadership
Scholarship & Fellowship
Cultural Preservation
Promoting Unity
Giving Back
ADVOCACY

Helsinki Commission Testimony

On October 20, 2015, UMD President Metodija Koloski and Senior Fellow Gavin Kopel submitted testimony to the U.S. Helsinki Commission in regards to the refugee crisis facing Europe. These actions included registering and fingerprinting refugees in order to protect the European Union’s security, providing food and water to refugees, and allowing refugees 72 hours to pass through Macedonia. In the testimony, UMD emphasized that Macedonia’s response to the crisis continued to be in line with the democratic and humanitarian values of the European Union.

Koloski and Kopel stated that increased foreign aid to Macedonia was needed, particularly from the US and EU, due to lack of adequate infrastructure and extra costs of border police as well as feeding the refugees ($100,000 per day and around €20,000 per day respectively). At the time of testimony, Macedonia had received only €90,656 from the EU. Koloski and Kopel ended their testimony by emphasizing that Macedonia and the Balkans cannot maintain necessary services to refugees on their own, and a unified response from the US and EU was needed to properly handle the crisis.
In December 2015, UMD President, Metodija A. Koloski, and UMD International Policy and Diplomacy Fellow, Gavin Kopel, attended a White House roundtable discussion on the Syrian refugee crisis. During the briefing, President Koloski noted how the United States was built on the backbones of refugees and those who left their homelands for better opportunities. He stated that immigrants have revitalized cities throughout the United States which sparked economic development such as the Bosnians in New York and Missouri and the Macedonians, who fled the Balkan Wars over a century ago, in Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio. Koloski also encouraged Administration officials to challenge our European partners and Arab countries to do more to help alleviate the pressures of the Syrian refugee crisis. He suggested that the Department of Homeland Security should offer assistance to Macedonia, Serbia, Greece, and Turkey to improve the process of incoming refugees. UMD – a strong voice for comprehensive immigration reform and proponent of Immigrant Heritage Month – commended the Administration on the “Stand Stronger” Citizen Awareness Campaign, which seeks to help legal permanent residents become American citizens. This campaign will benefit the Macedonian-American community.

Four more members of Congress joined the Congressional Macedonia Caucus. These members are Congressman Paul Cook (R-CA), Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA), Congressman Curt Clawson (R-FL), and Congressman Brendan Boyle (D-PA). There are now 24 members in the Caucus, including 11 Democrats and 13 Republicans, from 14 out of 50 States and one US Territory.

UMD International Policy and Diplomacy Fellow Gavin Kopel wrote a report on inadequacies for the Macedonian community which focused on diaspora rights. The analysis makes the determination that reducing or eliminating the diaspora’s right to vote will harm the relationship between Macedonia and its diaspora. The Macedonian government should make more of an effort to preserve its relationship with Macedonians outside of the country via electronic or postal voting, the opening of additional consulates, and the creation of a Ministry of the Diaspora.
**Australian Parliament Meetings**

In May 2015, UMD Australia Director Ordan Andreevski and members of the Canberra Australian-Macedonian community met with members of Australian Parliament to build closer ties between Australian-Macedonians and the Australian Government, calling for Australia to recognize Macedonia’s constitutional name. The delegation met with MP Tanya Plibersek of Sydney (who is of Slovenian heritage). MP Plibersek has been a strong advocate of multiculturalism in Australia.

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**UMD Makes American Case for Macedonia**

In October 2015, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski presented “The American Case for Macedonia” at a World Affairs Council of Greater Reading luncheon. There, Koloski informed attendees of the current name dispute and Greek blockage of Macedonia into NATO and the European Union. He provided the World Affairs Council of Greater Reading greater insight into the refugee crisis and how it is affecting Macedonia with 140,000 to 200,000 migrants passing through the state in a four month time period. This leaves the southern towns of Macedonia experiencing an influx of migrants with insufficient infrastructure and funds to effectively handle the refugees. Through 2020, Greece is expected to receive more than 474 million euros and Serbia is said to receive more than 8.2 million euros while Macedonia has only received 90,656 euros from the European Union. Koloski concluded the luncheon imploring that responsibility of the refugee crisis needs to be shared amongst countries in order to reach a viable resolution.
UMD, in collaboration with its local partner, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, launched the first-ever Birthright Macedonia program in July 2015. This program, which took place from July 10th to July 31st, allowed the youth of the Macedonian diaspora to experience the land of their ancestors. Students spent three weeks at an internship in Macedonia and lived with a host family. While there, the interns were able to form friendships and immerse themselves in Macedonian culture. The participants in the first year of the program were Natasia Kalajdziovski, Lucas Strezos, Filip Jotevski, and Aaron Kimson.
U.S. ‘Generation M’ Launch

On March 7th, the Next Generation Program launched Generation M in Detroit, Michigan. New faces were joined by Canadian Generation M leaders, UMD Board Member and Secretary, George Peters, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Macedonia to Detroit, Elena Zarkovska. Birthright Macedonia was discussed as well as Task Force Macedonia. Task Force Macedonia is a youth think tank where individual teams comprised of college students would focus on issues present in the Republic of Macedonia such as: human rights in neighboring countries, and diaspora needs. They would also offer recommendations, suggested policies, and conduct research that could improve Macedonia.

Canadian ‘Generation M’ Launch

In Toronto, the Canadian branch of the UMD launched the Next Generation Program, Generation M, which is an emerging leaders program that connects people of Macedonian heritage. Canadian Generation M co-chair Vele Tosevski said that the founding of the new branch will help bring together young Macedonians scattered throughout Canada. Ideas about how to expand the program into other parts of Canada were discussed as well as the launching of Birthright Macedonia. Attendees included UMD Canada Director Jim Daikos and Stephen Mangos who is a member of Macedonian Companions and the owner of Canadiana Flowers.
International Policy and Diplomacy Fellowships

UMD continued its International Policy and Diplomacy Fellowship program, hosting eight fellows over the summer in its Washington, D.C. office under UMD President Metodija Koloski. The fellows aided UMD functions and learned about current affairs in Macedonia, Southeast Europe, and Transatlantic issues. They also had the opportunity to develop their skills in writing, communications, research, social media, networking, fundraising, and event planning; the fellows were: Johandra Delgado (1), Mario Hristovski (2), Gordana Mircic (3), Martin Naunov (4), Vasil Popjanevski (5), Gorgi L. Popstefanov, Esq. (6), Kyle Anastas Rosher (7), and Aimee Shuck (8).

Bitove Scholarships

UMD Canada provided eight John L. N. Bitove, C.M. Macedonian Heritage Scholarship awards amounting to a total of $12,000 to young Macedonians who have contributed to their community. This was the largest amount of money given to students by UMD Canada in a single year. The eight recipients were: Natasha Carovska, Zharko Daniloski, Natasia Kalajdzovski, Mile Lazarevski, Stefan Milevski, Boban Petrovikj, Tamara Popovska, and Filip Simeski. UMD Canada recognizes the Fruit of the Spirit Foundation for funding four of the awards in memory of Pavle and Fania Klashovski.
Embassy New Year’s Masquerade

In January, UMD Celebrated the Orthodox New Year and the 1,500 year-old Vevcani Carnival with the 10th annual New Year’s Masquerade at the Macedonian Embassy in Washington, D.C. The 270 guests in attendance enjoyed traditional Macedonian food and wine donated by Stobi and the Balkan Wine Project, and Macedonian dance music provided by DJ Nikifor. Guests had the opportunity to meet Macedonia’s new ambassador to the United States, Dr. Vasko Naumovski.

Chicago Macedonian Mixer

March 30th, UMD Chicago held the Spring Macedonian Mixer, sponsored by Sophie Evanoff and the Vanille Patisserie bakery. This event brought together around 50 Macedonians to network and celebrate Macedonian culture.
May 8–10, the 2nd Macedonian-American Leadership Conference (MALC 2015) was held in Columbus, Ohio to bring together leaders of various Macedonian-American run organizations in the United States. MALC opened with a reception at St. Mary’s Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, where the American and Macedonian national anthems were performed by the Makedonski Tanec Ensemble with remarks by Macedonian Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Vasko Naumovski. UMD President Metodija Koloski gave an overview on UMD’s history and work in advocating for the Macedonian community. Gen M members Filip Jotevski and Mario Hrstovski, led a discussion on how young Macedonians can be more involved in their communities. Those in attendance were also able to speak with His Excellency, Ambassador Naumovski and Elena Zarkovska, Consul General of the Republic of Macedonia in Detroit.
From November 6-8, the 2nd Canadian Macedonian Leadership Conference took place in Toronto. Organized by the United Macedonian Diaspora (Canada), and its next generation program for young leaders, Generation M, CMLC2015 brought together Macedonian-Canadian leaders of various Macedonian cultural, business, and faith-based organizations from throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Youth Leadership explored the question of whether Twitter has helped or harmed Macedonian culture. The event also included a discussion of intergroup and international relations, leadership, and advancement. CMLC2015 as a whole served to inspire Canadian-Macedonians to get active and build upon the groundwork that many before them have worked tirelessly to establish. The conference ended on one final note: united, our diaspora can be a powerful instrument to achieving the values and goals so dear to our community. UMD (Canada) thanks the Stanwyck family for generously sponsoring CMLC2015.
In August, UMD Los Angeles supported their fellow Macedonians in the Special Olympics World Games. In recognition of UMD’s support, the Macedonian delegation gave UMD Los Angeles a “Gold Mask” from the Macedonian village of Trebenista.

**Smithsonian Folkway Recordings Release**

In October, UMD hosted three receptions in Washington, D.C.; New York City, New York; and Cedar Grove, New Jersey in order to celebrate the release of the “Playing ‘Til Your Soul Comes Out! Music of Macedonia,” CD produced by Smithsonian Folkway Recordings. It is the first Macedonian music CD by Smithsonian Folkway Recordings. The three receptions featured speeches by Macedonian Ambassador Dr. Vasko Naumovski, Macedonian Minister of Culture Elizabeta Kancheska-Milevska, and Martin Koenig. Koenig discussed how he became enamored with Macedonian Folk Music and culture. The Goce Delchev Macedonian Folk Dance Ensemble performed at the New Jersey reception. UMD, with the support of the International Music and Arts Foundation and Nicholas Thaw and Irena Gapkovska, provided $33,000 for the project.

**Special Olympics World Games**

In August, UMD Los Angeles supported their fellow Macedonians in the Special Olympics World Games. In recognition of UMD’s support, the Macedonian delegation gave UMD Los Angeles a “Gold Mask” from the Macedonian village of Trebenista.

**UMD Provides Cultural Grant to 10th Annual Macedonian Film Festival**

October 22-25, the 10th annual Macedonian Film Festival was held at the Carlton Cinema in Toronto. The festival included showings of films by well-respected Macedonian director Milcho Manchevski. Films included *Before the Rain, Dust, Shadows, and Mothers*. The Macedonian film festival has been held every year since 2006.
Macedonian Tribute Gala

November 14, the Hilton Chicago hosted the Macedonian Tribute Gala. This event was held in honor of academic Dr. Victor Friedman (UMD Lifetime Achievement Award), Oscar-nominated film director Milcho Manchevski (UMD Macedonian Heritage Public Service Award), and businesswoman Katrina Markoff (UMD Outstanding Achievement Award in Business). Sponsors for the event included A.G. Mac Old World Imports as well as the Bitove Foundation. Our local Chicago planning committee, spearheaded by Sophie Evanoff and Tammie Josifovic did an excellent job planning the Gala. Thanks to the Emcee and UMD Advisory Council Member Elizabeth Naumovski, the MTG was one of UMD’s smoothest running Galas.
Ohio State Macedonian-Israeli Meeting

April 15th, the Macedonian and Israeli student groups at Ohio State University held a meeting to celebrate their own and the friendship of the Jewish and Macedonian communities. The event included speeches by Consulate General of Macedonia in Detroit Elena Zarkovska, UMD Macedonian Companion Donald Sazdanoff, and Israeli Deputy General Elad Strohmayer. The presenters marked on the historically close relationship between the Jewish and Macedonian peoples. Since the event happened on Holocaust Remembrance day, part of the event was dedicated to honoring victims of the Holocaust and the Macedonians who helped Jewish refugees.

UNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

UMD & AJC Showcase Film

In June, the UMD partnered with the American Jewish Committee to host a special viewing of *Empty Boxcars*, a film detailing the story of Jews in Bulgaria and its occupied territories, which includes present-day Macedonia during World War II. Although orders to deport all Jews from these areas were eventually rescinded, 11,393 Jews from Macedonia and Thrace were killed. The screening was followed by a discussion on the importance of educating the public on this chapter of the Holocaust and preserving the memory of Macedonian Jews.

Global Diaspora Week

UMD participated in the 2015 Global Diaspora Week organized by the U.S. Department of State, USAID, and International diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdEA). Opening remarks were by Secretary of State John Kerry, who touched on the significance of diaspora communities to the history of the United States and the role it plays on the world stage.

Ohio State Macedonian-Israeli Meeting

In October 2015, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the UMD participated in “Responding to the Refugee Crisis: Legal and Security Implications for the Western Balkans.” The panel discussion was part of Global Diaspora Week; a week-long celebration of diaspora communities and their contributions to global development. Ambassadors Naumovski (Macedonia) and Matkovic (Serbia) commented on their country’s responses to the ongoing crisis that is affecting the Balkans and expressed the need for a more unified and decisive response from the EU. Macedonia and Serbia are both dealing with increasing costs associated with the crisis and very little assistance from the EU to deal with the financial burden. UMD President Metodija A. Koloski spoke to the panel on the need for the EU and US to deal with the ongoing refugee crisis in Southeast Europe and the underlying causes of the crisis in the Middle East. The overall message from the panelists was clear: the crisis has given no indication that its escalation will slow in the near future and a unified response from the EU and US is needed to find a solution to one of the worst humanitarian crises that the world has faced. Koloski closed his comments with the statement that “resolution of the current crisis is viable only if responsibility is shared. No single country can rely solely on its own resources to solve a problem as complex as this.”
GIVING BACK

UMD Provides Crucial Flood Relief Funds to Macedonia

UMD collected funds for the Macedonian Red Cross to assist victims of flooding in Tetovo. Over $55,000 was raised and donated to assist flood relief efforts, with a $50,000 donation coming from UMD Macedonian Companion member Boris Giourof of California.

Mediterranean Holiday Night

On December 15, the 3rd annual Mediterranean Holiday Night to Benefit Refugees International took place. The event was organized at Ankara Restaurant in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the American Turkish Association of D.C. and Italians in D.C. Δ1 among other organizations. There was traditional Mediterranean food and wine as well as a raffle drawing for holiday prizes. All proceeds, totalling over $6,000, went towards Refugees International to support refugee relief.

Skopje Orphanage Donation

In February, UMD donated living room furniture to the 11th October Orphanage in Skopje, which was possible due to funds raised by the Avjar 5K Run/Walk.

Help UMD give back by making a donation online or filling the last page of this report.
Macedonian Companions provide vital financial support for UMD to continue preserving, promoting, and protecting the Macedonian heritage globally. Membership in the Macedonian Companions program consists of an annual donation of $1,000 or more. A UMD Advisory Council Subcommittee provides oversight and accountability of these funds on an ongoing basis.

It is time for Macedonians to define their future and write the legacy our children will honor!

Become a Companion and help UMD preserve our name – Macedonia, our identity, and our exceptional heritage for generations to come! United, We Can! Companions receive a special pin for joining the program.

Alexander the Great’s Companions were the most effective military cavalry unit of the ancient world – UMD’s Macedonian Companions are the most effective supporters of the global Macedonian cause.

"Alexander the Great's Companions were the most effective military cavalry unit of the ancient world – UMD's Macedonian Companions are the most effective supporters of the global Macedonian cause."
Macedonian Companions
(United States)
Continued

Dimitar Nasev
Jerry Naumoff
Lou Nestorovski
Stojan Nikolov
Marko Nikolovski
Trajko Papuckoski
George Peters
Gorgi Popstefanov
Lou Popstefanov
George Rochette
Donald L. Sazdanoff
Vlado Elica Serdenkovski
Michael Stakleff
Minister Gligor Tashkovich
Eli I. Terpo
Nicholas Thaw
Stojan Trajkov
Thomas Traycoff
Lou Vlasho
Mike Zafirovski
Jasen Zubcevik

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UMD Global Board of Directors
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Nicholas Thaw
Marilyn Trentos
Lou Vlasho

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Petar Petrovski, Vice-Chairman of European Operations
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Ace Stankovski, Director of Outreach
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Katerina Gorgievski, At-Large Member
Mirjana Kuzmanovski, At-Large Member
Dillon Ognenovski, At-Large Member
Elena Temelkova, At-Large Member
Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters:

Overall, 2015 was a successful year for the United Macedonian Diaspora, full of numerous and important projects. Some of these extensive projects required greater financial resources and usage of UMD’s reserve funds. UMD strongly believes in investing in our community and you, which is why we used the reserve funds to cover the shortfall of programs and dues revenue in 2015!

We closed the year with a negative change in net assets of $34,769. In 2015, UMD intentionally reduced its volume in programs with plans and goals to strategically reposition our programs to better serve our members and community. Due to this strategic retreat, UMD’s member dues, donations, and program revenues totaled $194,684; 37% less than 2014. It is with pleasure and excitement to report that the 2016 financial results are already exceeding our expectations and we sincerely thank you!

Based on our members’ suggestions and the Board’s approval, UMD used 48% of our operational budget on educational and philanthropic programs and 24% on cultural programs. Educational and philanthropic programs include events like the Macedonian Tribute Gala held in Chicago, the Macedonian-American Leadership Conference held at the Ohio State University, the Canadian-Macedonian Leadership Conference at the University of Toronto, scholarships, stipends for our fellows, Ajvar 5K races, support of orphanages in Macedonia, refugee crisis assistance, flood relief efforts, and more. Cultural programs include events such as the Old New Year celebrations, funding for the publication of the first-ever Smithsonian Macedonian Traditional Music CD, exhibitions of Macedonian artists, and several other events throughout the year that promoted our wonderful language, culture, and tradition.

Your suggestions, thoughts, and contributions are imperative to our programs and we would love to hear from you! Please e-mail me at treasurer@umdiaspora.org with any questions or suggestions.

UMD is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization, tax ID # 20-5182996, and UMD Canada is a registered Canadian charity (BN: 824548564RR0001).

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”- Anonymous

Sincerely,

Lidija Stojkoska
UMD Board Member and Treasurer
Statement of Activities - 2015 CONSOLIDATED

Revenue
- Special Events and Programs: $89,579 (46%)
- Membership Dues and Donations: $105,105 (54%)
- Total Public Support and Other Revenue: $194,684 (100%)

Operating Expenses
- Educational and Philanthropic Programs: $110,427 (48%)
- Cultural Programs: $54,195 (24%)
- Management and Administrative: $35,028 (15%)
- Public Relations and Special Events: $29,804 (13%)
- Total Expenses: $229,453 (100%)

Change in Net Assets: $(34,769)
DONATE TODAY

We know you understand the challenges facing Macedonia and the Macedonian people. UMD and Generation M work to ensure that our children and future generations of Macedonians will be able to proudly declare themselves as Macedonians.


BECOME A UMD MEMBER

Your commitment to becoming a member today is necessary for UMD to make an impact globally while continuing the Macedonian struggle for justice and preservation of our name, heritage, identity, and language.

Your annual membership gift will go a long way towards our charitable programs in Macedonia and around the world, including funds for orphans, the needy, and furthering the education of our future leaders by providing annual scholarships.

UMD can continue to accomplish its valuable work only with the help of dedicated Macedonians and friends of Macedonia like you.

UMD is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States and a registered charity in Canada. Your support is tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor for advice. All memberships are on an annual basis, and must be renewed by December 31 of each year.

MEMBER STATUS

- **STUDENT “GENERATION M”**
  - $5 MONTHLY
  - $50
  - **INDIVIDUAL**
  - $100+
  - **FAMILY**
  - $250+
  - **Macedonian Companions**
  - $1,000 Annually
  - $84 MONTHLY

METHOD OF DONATION

- [ ] Credit Card
- [ ] Check made payable to United Macedonian Diaspora
- [ ] Cash

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