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UMD 2017 Annual Report
WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2004, UMD is a leading Macedonian advocacy organization promoting the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities worldwide.

What We Strive to Do

• Safeguard Macedonia’s name and human rights of all Macedonians
• Unify the Macedonian diaspora
• Promote universal ideals of peace, freedom, self-determination, equality, and justice
• Advance ethnic Macedonian heritage, language, and identity
• Preserve Macedonian traditions via charitable, educational, and social programs

How We Do It

ADVOCACY
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
EDUCATION
CULTURAL PROMOTION
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Why We Do It

We envision an influential, respected, and united Macedonian diaspora committed to building and sustaining the global Macedonian community.

Congratulations are in order for the organization’s successful work and to all of its members these past years...you represent a model of how one should support and help their homeland.

Dr. Gjorge Ivanov

President of Macedonia

There has never been an organization like UMD in the global Macedonian community. UMD’s founders have broken down the old barriers by speaking about one cause, with one voice - Macedonia.

The late John L. N. Bitove, C.M

We appreciate the good work that the United Macedonian Diaspora is doing to preserve and promote the Macedonian heritage and identity worldwide.

Marian Ilitch and the late Michael Ilitch
In 2017, Macedonia celebrated the 26th anniversary of its independence. We used our position in Washington, D.C. to advocate for Macedonia’s rightful name, human rights and heritage to governments around the world.

Democracy Building

Upon analyzing the problems plaguing Macedonia following the 2016 parliamentary election, we called for several changes to take place to improve democracy in Macedonia. A current, fair, and accurate census should be conducted, a new election based on this census should take place, all political parties should be politically organized rather than ethnically, and they should pledge absolute allegiance to the State of Macedonia, its Constitution and institutions.

We staunchly supported Macedonia preserving its name, and we called on the Macedonian government to not only formally withdraw from the UN-sponsored name negotiations, but also to submit a resolution before the UN General Assembly and Security Council to be recognized by the UN under the constitutional and rightful name - Republic of Macedonia.

Throughout the year, especially in meetings with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Macedonia and the UN Special Envoy on the name, UMD voiced its support of Macedonia joining the European Union and NATO, so long as Macedonia’s name, constitution, language, identity, history, and heritage are preserved.

We encouraged dialogue amongst Macedonian people and political parties, rather than violence, as the way to respond to the crises that arose during the year. UMD hosted two roundtables on Macedonia’s political crisis, including one with Macedonia’s outgoing Foreign Minister, bringing together experts from the Balkans, think tank leaders, ethnic communities, diplomats, and World Bank representatives.
UMD strongly opposed the Tirana Platform, because it does not contribute to Macedonian unity, regional stability or national opportunities. We remained outspoken on the issue, including participating in a webcast panel discussion with Al-Jazeera and publishing an op-ed on Fox News. We urged the United States, NATO, and the European Union to join us in condemning this platform. Our advocacy resulted in Michigan Senator Gary Peters, as well as the Helsinki Commission of the U.S. Congress taking this matter up with the Albanian Embassy officials in Washington, D.C.

We advocated against the new language law in Macedonia, which we found both unconstitutional and divisive. UMD has long-held the position that the Ohrid Framework Agreement segregates society in Macedonia. We are a firm believer in a peaceful, stable and united Macedonia not divided into ethnic enclaves.

In December, UMD released a Report on the State of Macedonia’s Digital Diplomacy, with multiple conclusions. One conclusion suggested that the Macedonian Foreign Ministry maintain Facebook and Twitter accounts for each of its diplomatic missions and for each of those Missions’ employees.

Another conclusion of this report argued that the Foreign Ministry maintain a higher level of activity on its social media accounts, posting content every day, multiple times a day.

In addition, the report noted that the Macedonian Foreign Ministry’s website ought to be made more user-friendly and that multiple pages on the English version of the website were not yet translated from Macedonian, which should be rectified immediately.
In January 2017, UMD attended several 115th Congress swearing-in ceremonies for friends of Macedonia and for members of the Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans.

Following the retirement of Congresswoman Candice Miller who founded the Macedonia Caucus, Congressman Dave Trott (R-MI-11), Congressman Brendan F. Boyle (D-PA-13), Congressman Steve Stivers (R-OH-15), and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI-12) took the helm of the Caucus, stating:

“Macedonia has been a critical partner in advancing U.S. national security efforts around the world. Furthermore, the Macedonian diaspora in the United States has been a critical part of our community and has contributed to the diversity and advancement of our entire nation. We are proud to renew the Macedonia Caucus for the 115th Congress aimed at highlighting issues that affect the Macedonian-American community and educating our colleagues on the important role Macedonia and the Macedonian diaspora play in forwarding American interests.”
Combating Hate Against Macedonians

UMD took swift action following the deeply irresponsible comments on Macedonia by House Foreign Affairs Europe Subcommittee Chair Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA).

During an interview with Albania-based “TV Vision Plus,” Rohrabacher said: “I am sorry to say but (Macedonia) is not a state... Kosovars and Albanians in Macedonia should become part of Kosovo. The other part of Macedonia should become part of Bulgaria, or whatever country they allege to belong. The idea that we should keep Macedonia alive because someone 30 years ago decided this was the best reconfiguration that should come out of Yugoslavia’s disintegration, does not lead to a reasonable justification that this idea has to persist.”

Congressman Rohrabacher’s comments caused uproar among the Macedonian-American community and Macedonian communities around the world, who sent letters, made phone calls, and wrote on social media demanding an apology. The U.S. Department of State issued a statement: “Regarding U.S. policy, we recognize and support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Macedonia.”

The Congressman’s comments drew a response from his fellow Republican member of Congress Dave Trott, Co-Chair of the Macedonia Caucus, stating, “A sovereign and strong Macedonia and Macedonian people serves to benefit our mutual interests and we must support, not undermine, our important ally.”

Within two weeks, Congressman Rohrabacher accepted an hour-long meeting with UMD leadership. UMD provided the Congressman with a copy of the books “This Land We Do Not Give – a history of Macedonian resistance to foreign occupation” by Michael Seraphinoff and Chris Stefou, “Iraqi Freedom – Road to Babylon” by Metodi Hadji Janev, as well as an educational packet of information of the Human Rights of the Macedonian Minority in Greece.

During the meeting, the Congressman apologized for his insensitive comments, and issued a statement the same day that read: “At the end of a recent interview, I made a number of informal statements regarding the Republic
of Macedonia. Upon reflection, I see that some of those statements did not accurately convey my intent. This release clarifies my position. Macedonia is a legitimate country with the right of self-determination and sanctity of borders. My comment alluded, perhaps inartfully, to my concern with internal governing challenges that Macedonia faces concerning ethnic minorities. I am in no way suggesting that anyone except Macedonians determine the sovereign status or borders of their country. If my words were taken to mean anything else, I apologize.”

During the spring, UMD conducted meetings with members of Congress:
With Congressman Mike Doyle (D-PA), we discussed the various ethnic communities in the Pittsburgh area, current immigration issues, and the political crisis in Macedonia. Congressman Doyle expressed commitment to strengthen his ties with the Macedonian community in Pittsburgh and in Washington, D.C.

With Congressman Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), we discussed U.S.-Macedonia relations and issues concerning the Macedonian-American community in his district and in the greater Los Angeles area.

In May, UMD met with Senator Bob Corker, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to discuss the U.S.-Macedonia strategic partnership and how to advance the interests of the Macedonian-American community.

To protest the lack of high-profile U.S. Administration visits to Macedonia, UMD’s President Metodija A. Koloski joined the Tucker Carlson Tonight show...
on Fox News. He set the record straight on Macedonia and brought up several facts regarding the U.S.-Macedonia relationship. The show concluded by playing the Macedonian national anthem, showing Macedonia’s flag and the displaying the words “Македонците се борат” on screen, with Tucker Carlson and the cameraman placing their right hands on their hearts while the anthem was played.

During the summer, through the advocacy efforts of UMD and our members, 32 members of Congress urged Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to visit Macedonia. This concluded a nearly two-month campaign, with over 250 educational Congressional meetings conducted.

In December, at the Embassy of Macedonia, we hosted an awards ceremony to honor members of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as to celebrate 24 years of the Vermont-Macedonia sister-state partnership. Major General Steven A. Cray, Adjutant General of the State of Vermont received the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award, and Lieutenant General Metodija Velichkovski of the Macedonian Army received a UMD recognition plaque. UMD hosted a lunch briefing with both Generals for the Macedonia Caucus to discuss issues of the migrant crisis, ISIS freedom fighters, and Macedonia’s NATO candidacy.

AUSTRALIA

UMD supported the Australian Government’s agenda of developing a rigorous and relevant Foreign Policy White Paper that will better meet the needs of all Australians including the Australian Macedonian community.

In our submission, we asked the Australian Government and the Australian Parliament to finally recognize the Republic of Macedonia by its legitimate constitutional name as has been done by 137 nations at the UN. We call upon Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten MP to show how much direct and indirect funding their parties have received from Greek sources since 1994 in order to segregate, delegitimize and discriminate against the Republic of Macedonia and against Macedonians living in the Hellenic Republic, in Australia and globally. Finally, we called upon Australia’s political leaders to formally apologize to Macedonia and its people around the world for this shameful, unethical, illegal and unsustainable foreign policy position that has harmed Australia’s national and international reputation and undermined peace, international laws and regional stability in Southeast Europe.
EUROPE

Leading up to the Macedonia visit of the EU’s High Representative for Foreign Policy and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, UMD urged her to do everything in her power to help chart a new path in EU-Macedonian relations, based on mutual respect and common interests. Furthermore, we called upon her:

- To make every diplomatic and legal effort possible to pressure recalcitrant EU states such as Greece and Bulgaria to stand down from their aggressive positions against the Republic of Macedonia;

- To guarantee the human rights of all EU citizens, including the ethnic Macedonians of the Aegean and Pirin regions of Greece and Bulgaria;

- To call for all cases of war crimes from the 2001 War to be re-opened, and for the perpetrators of these crimes to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of international law;

- To fully recognize Macedonian identity, culture, and language;

- To recognize Macedonia by its name.

UMD appealed to the Macedonian Special Prosecutor’s Office to end the detention of Edmond Temelko, Mayor of Pustec, Albania, due to news of his ailing health. Temelko was the 2010 UMD Human Rights Award recipient and has been a strong Macedonian Human Rights Advocate. Temelko was released on house arrest later in the year. UMD strongly believes the case against him is politically motivated.
CHARITABLE EFFORTS

UMD Completes Stajkovci Hospital Renovation Project

One year after the devastating flash floods in Macedonia, which tragically took 24 lives and displaced over a 1,000 people, UMD extended a heartfelt thanks to all from the Macedonian diaspora who contributed to our #SupportMacedonia flood relief campaign in August 2016. Together, we raised just over $33,000. $17,000 were donated to the Macedonian Red Cross, and the rest of the funds were used to renovate the Stajkovci hospital.

Within three days of the floods, UMD sent $17,000 to the Macedonian Red Cross to be used immediately in their humanitarian efforts providing clean water, nutritional materials, blankets, and other items. A team of UMD volunteers led by Filip Jotevski and Trajce Nikolov – at no cost to you or UMD – went to Cento and Stajkovci for cleanup efforts. The locals were really appreciative and welcomed them with open arms and Macedonian coffee and treats – true Macedonian hospitality, despite the grave circumstances they faced.

UMD President Metodija A. Koloski was fortunate to visit Stajkovci in late September 2016, where he spoke to many residents, and was deeply disappointed at how dire the situation remained. UMD’s Board of Directors agreed to spend the remainder of the funds from the campaign to renovate the local hospital in Stajkovci, which had been destroyed. The Stajkovci hospital has two doctors, two nurses, and serves a population of approximately 2,500 people. When UMD’s President visited the hospital in September 2016, the road leading up to the hospital had still not been cleaned and cars were still overturned in the neighboring properties.

In July 2017, UMD Chairman Stojan Nikolov and UMD’s President visited Stajkovci to check on the relief efforts, and met with Dr. Mitko Makeski, who expressed his utmost gratitude to all Macedonians abroad. From now on, anyone who visits the Stajkovci hospital will see a plaque in front of the entrance that states that it was renovated through a UMD donation.

This hospital renovation, completed by the ARTNAM Group construction company, spearheaded by UMD’s Ana Dukoska, reinforced a positive message that Macedonians are responsible for one another and that when Macedonia was in need, the community rose to the challenge and helped put thousands of minds at ease during difficult times.
AJVAR 5K Raises Funds for Children with Down Syndrome and Autism

UMD’s flagship charitable event, Ajvar 5K is an annual benefit Run/Walk bringing together the diaspora and friends in cities across the United States to foster community spirit and support noble charity causes.

In its 5th year, Ajvar 5K saw its greatest participation to date and was able to raise $13,000 for VERA, a non-profit organization based out of Strumica, Macedonia that provides support for children and adults with Down syndrome and Autism.

Over 600 participants took part in Ajvar 5K races in Crown Point, Indiana; Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; Columbus, Ohio; Garfield, New Jersey; Los Angeles, and San Francisco, California; and Washington, D.C.
12th Macedonian Old-New Year’s Masquerade – Vasilica Celebration

UMD hosted its 12th Annual Macedonian Old-New Year’s Masquerade – Vasilica Celebration at the Embassy of Macedonia in Washington, D.C. Following brief remarks by Ambassador Vasko Naumovski, more than 150 guests enjoyed Macedonia’s rich cuisine and wines donated by Stobi Winery.
3rd Annual Rockin’ Party in Toronto

UMD’s 3rd Annual Rockin Party in collaboration with the Macedonian Film Festival, hosted by Elizabeth Naumovski and Natasha Denkovski, was held in June 2017 at the Ashbridge’s Bay Yacht Club. Close to 100 people attended the 3rd Rockin’ Party, which featured a classic rock live performance by the band Celler Door and latest international hits by DJ Steve P. The event concluded with the Macedonian oro.

#MALC2017 Macedonian-American Heritage Congressional Reception

As part of the 4th Macedonian-American Leadership Conference and Days on the Hill in June 2017, UMD hosted a Macedonian-American Heritage Congressional Reception in honor of Immigrant Heritage Month. The event took place in the Rayburn Office Building and included hors d’oeuvres, refreshments, and speeches.

The evening finished with the first-ever Macedonian folk dance performance in the history of the U.S. Congress, by the Goce Delchev Macedonian Folk Dance Ensemble. The group traveled from New Jersey to perform traditional Macedonian dances, impressing the guests and Congressional staff.
CULTURAL PRESERVATION & PROMOTION

Wines of Macedonia Presented in Miami

In September 2017, UMD partnered with Wines of Macedonia to showcase Macedonian wines in South Florida. Over 120 hospitality industry leaders and the Consul Generals of Colombia, France, Jamaica, and Japan attended the Miami event hosted by East Hotel Beverage Director Nino Milenkovski and supported by UMD’s Dana Klein and Mishko Josifov. Attendees were able to sample wines from the Tikvesh, Bovin, Stobi, Popov, Dalvina, and Royal wineries in Macedonia.

2017 Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo

Thanks to the efforts of our UMD Florida Representative Mishko Josifov and UMD Advisory Council Member (and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Macedonia) Dana Klein, Macedonia was one of the thirty nations promoted at the 2017 Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in October.

Josifov spoke about increasing U.S.-Macedonia trade and investment opportunities in Macedonia. The Expo’s Presidential Reception also showcased Macedonian wines, including Chardonnay and Vranec, from the Bovin Winery.

Josifov met with Florida Governor Rick Scott (below), who expressed an interest in the growing Macedonian-American community in Florida. Also in attendance were former President of Bolivia, Carlos Mesa, former President of Guatemala, Alvaro Colom, and Mayor of Broward County Barbara Sharief.
2017 Pittsburgh East European and Slavic Fall Festival

In October, UMD took part in the festival hosted by the Center for Russian and East European Studies and the Yugoslav Room Committee at the University of Pittsburgh. The festival highlighted the history, people and cultures of Southeast Europe, focusing on the cultures of former Yugoslavia. Representatives from the Bosnian, Montenegrin, Macedonian, Serbian and Slovenian communities took part in the event, and we were able to enjoy Southeast European music performed by the Pitt Carpathian Ensemble, including the famous Macedonian folk song, “Jovano, Jovanke.”

UMD Publication: Macedonia 2013: 100 Years After the Treaty of Bucharest

After nearly four-years of hard work, UMD published a new, 474-page academic journal, Macedonia 2013: 100 Years After the Treaty of Bucharest. The book features the proceedings of UMD’s 4th Annual Global Conference, held July 24 through August 2, 2013 in Skopje and Ohrid, Macedonia. The papers in the new journal were presented by 44 academics from 12 different countries including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Romania, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. They represent the University of Bucharest, University of Exeter, Oxford University, American University, Jahja Kemal College, University of East Anglia, University of Zurich, Western New England University, Institute for National History, and University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius.

The book addresses topics ranging from an analysis of events and war tactics from the Balkan Wars, the impacts of the Treaty of Bucharest on contemporary politics, the challenges currently facing Macedonia, and the status of minority Macedonian populations in other Balkan nations. Dr. Natasha Garrett, a UMD Board Member and Director of International Student Services at La Roche College who frequently presents on topics of contemporary migration, international education, and cross-cultural communication, edited the work.

The journal is now available at numerous libraries around the world, including at the Library of Congress, Harvard University, and Stanford University.
CULTURAL PresERVATION & PROMOtiON

UMD Screens Balkan Roots in Washington, D.C.

During the holiday season, over 40 guests attended the DC Screening of “Balkan Roots,” a music documentary featuring the Barcelona Gipsy Klezmer Orchestra - Winner of Best Documentary Feature at Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival; Best Music Documentary Feature at Long Beach Indie International Film, Media, and Music Festival, and Best Documentary at Macedonian Film Festival.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & GROWING UMD’S MEMBERSHIP

UMD Meet-Up in Atlanta, Georgia

In February 2017, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski visited Atlanta, Georgia and met with Macedonian-Americans, organized by past UMD Board Member Ivona Grimberg.

UMD President Visits Macedonian Community in Houston, Texas

Close to 40 Macedonian-Americans attended a picnic in May 2017 in Houston, Texas organized by UMD Houston representative Olivera Jankovska Bajaj. UMD President Metodija A. Koloski visited the community during a two-day trip, which included meetings with the office of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee and the Mayor’s Office.
UMD Seattle Brings Macedonians Together at The Rainier Club

In March 2017, thirty Macedonian professionals and friends of gathered for a Macedonian Happy Hour hosted by UMD Seattle Representative Gjorgji Gjeorgjievski at The Rainier Club in downtown Seattle. UMD President Metodija A. Koloski visited the Seattle Macedonian-American community for the first time and gave a brief presentation about UMD’s educational advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. and its programs serving the global Macedonian community like the Bitove Scholarship, Generation M, Birthright Macedonia, UMD’s internship, and the UMD Endowment through the Cleveland Foundation.

Koloski presented Gjeorgjievski with a UMD Certificate of Appreciation for his important work bringing the Macedonian community together in Seattle, and projects such as the Smithsonian Macedonian music CD. Gjorgji and his wife Tiffany brought their 7-week-old son Brock - the youngest member of UMD. It was a great opportunity to network and celebrate our common Macedonian heritage. The next day, Koloski visited Gjeorgjievski at Microsoft headquarters - the place of employment for a dozen Macedonian-Americans.
UMD Introduced to Portland Macedonians

After visiting Seattle's Macedonian community, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski traveled to Portland, Oregon to speak about the work of UMD. Longtime UMD Macedonian Companions Dr. and Mrs. Leon Speroff, Macedonia Schools Project Coordinator Tom Lineham, and UMD members Mr. and Mrs. Toni Georgiev hosted him during the weekend visit.

Koloski gave a presentation to over 50 members of the Podkrepa (meaning “support” in Macedonian) organization in Portland followed by a potluck dinner. Podkrepa was founded in 1939 to jointly serve Macedonian and Bulgarian immigrants to Portland. It was a great opportunity to inform the audience about UMD’s work and why even in distant places like Portland, Oregon, UMD’s mission of promoting ethnic Macedonian heritage is critical, particularly for the next generation.

UMD Expands to London, United Kingdom

UMD expanded to the United Kingdom in December. Ilija Vlcevski, a second-generation Macedonian immigrant born and raised in London and a Business and Economics graduate of the University of Hertfordshire, was appointed as UMD’s London Representative.

Vlcevski will particularly focus on the young generations of Macedonians in the UK, harnessing their potential to create a positive impact for the community and for Macedonia. He was inspired to spearhead a UMD division in the UK after participating in Birthright Macedonia.
For the fourth year in a row, we recognized forty young Macedonian leaders who have excelled in their respective fields and endorsed them as role models for our community. The 40 Under 40 List is conducted via nominations, with a selection committee choosing the final honorees. The UMD 40 Under 40 List was launched in 2014 to celebrate the accomplishments of proven role models in the Macedonian community.

We hope that by recognizing these achievements, our honorees will be encouraged to continue impacting the world in their careers, promoting Macedonian culture, and contributing to the global Macedonian community.

Dr. Mariana Bockarova
Dr. Allison Brager
Elisaveta Curkoska
Gabriela Cvejoska
Blagoj Delipetrev
Dalibor Dimovski
Dr. Dragan Gastevski
Tanja Gerasimova
Dr. Mihajlo Gjeorgjievska
Saška Gocevska
Dino Gramatikov
Martina Grasheska-Daskaloski
Derek Ilich
Antoaneta Ivanova
Bozidar Janakievski
Deana Janceski
Milica Jovanova
Gorjan Jovanovski
Juliana Koloska-Bogatinoska
Vladimir Kolovski
Vladimir Kotevski
Alexander Matovski
George Mazevski
Nino Milenkovski
Stefan Milevski
Stojce Milosevski
Lili Mitrović
Zorica Mitrovic
Dr. Snezana Obetkovska-Galic
Elizabeta Pankovska-Saken
Trajko Papuckoski
Natasha Penzo
Evan Perelekos
Dr. Aleksandar Shulevski
Angelique Soklev-Tasevski
Angjelko Sokolovski
Cr. Emilija Lisa Sterjova
Aleksandra Trpkovska
Katherine Vrantsidis
"The work you continue to do to build the strength of next generation leaders and youth in the Macedonian community is so very important. Keep up the great work!"

Marian Ilitch

Birthright Macedonia

In July, the 3rd Annual Birthright Macedonia program brought eight students from around the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom, to Macedonia to discover and strengthen their connection with their Macedonian roots. Tyler Murray, Valentina Talevski, Natasa Petreska, Dillon Ognenovski, Nicole Krings, Jeremy Drossinis, Ilija Vlcevski and James Cvetkovski spent three weeks in Macedonia, living with local host families.

Through our partnership with the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) in Skopje, Macedonia, these students were able to intern in a diverse number of institutions fitting their academic goals, careers, and interests, such as the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University "St. Cyril and Methodius," SOS Children’s Village, the Macedonian Red Cross, Healthgrouper, Nextsense, and the Macedonian Human Resources Association. MCIC also organized weekend activities for the students to experience important Macedonian cultural events.

Since its beginning in 2015, Birthright Macedonia has helped 18 students experience their heritage and homeland, often for the first time, and establish contacts and friendships with their peers in Macedonia, to help deepen the Macedonian diaspora’s ties with its roots.
Generation M Appointed 11 New Regional Representatives

UMD appointed eleven new regional representatives for its young leaders program, Generation M. These young men and women display leadership in their local Macedonian communities and advocate for the education and empowerment of Macedonian youth worldwide. Mario Hristovski was elected as Global Chair of Generation M for the 2017 calendar year.

Generation M brings together young people with Macedonian heritage on a personal and professional level through social media, networking events, and annual leadership conferences in the U.S. and Canada.

2017 Regional Representatives:

Andriana Angelevska  
Los Angeles, California

Borjana Anicin  
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Mihail Blair  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Jasmina Dimitrovski  
Clifton, New Jersey

Emilija Dimitrievski  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Onur Epidov  
New York, New York

Ana Pancevska  
Detroit, Michigan

Luka Petrushevski  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Vasil Popjanovski  
Buffalo, New York

Andrej Simeski  
Providence, Rhode Island

Kevin Speroff  
Columbus, Ohio
4th Annual Macedonian-American Leadership Conference and Days on the Hill

In June, UMD and Generation M hosted a hugely successful 4th Macedonian-American Leadership Conference (MALC) and Days on the Hill in Washington, D.C. These events had a significant impact as UMD leaders, Generation M members, and others came together to build our advocacy presence within Congress, celebrate Macedonian culture, discuss current events affecting Macedonia, and continue developing leaders in the Macedonian community.

On the first day of the conference, attendees spent a day on Capitol Hill, visiting many House Members to raise awareness about issues important to Macedonians: the name dispute, Russian meddling in the Balkans, NATO and EU involvement, and Macedonia’s role in the international community. We visited over 120 Congressional offices and connected again on these issues with Macedonia Caucus co-chairs Congressmen David Trott and Brendan Boyle, as well as Congressmen David Cicilline, Bill Pascrell, Jim Banks, Pat Tiberi, and Donald Beyer.

The next day, we attended the 10th Roll Call of Nations Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Victims of Communism Memorial, to lay a wreath in honor of Macedonians who lost their lives during Communism.
Following the ceremony, more Congress meetings and a U.S. State Department briefing on U.S.-Macedonia Relations occupied the day, and concluded with an Ambassador’s Reception at the Embassy of Macedonia for the MALC2017 guests.

MALC2017’s final day was spent at the UMD office, where we hosted speakers who addressed best practices for Macedonian human rights advocates, U.S. policy updates from the embassy in Skopje, Macedonian Jewish Holocaust remembrance and awareness, EU and NATO membership’s importance to Macedonia and UMD’s work, programs and charity support. The conference was a perfect time to launch our new UMD Women in Leadership mentorship program. A Potomac River Cruise concluded the Conference, leaving all refreshed and looking forward to the next conference.
UMD International and Policy and Diplomacy Fellowship

In 2017, UMD welcomed 14 interns—3 over the spring semester, 8 over the summer, and 3 during the fall.

Over the course of their time at the UMD office, the interns published reports, drafted press releases, attended events, acted as liaisons between UMD and governmental and non-governmental organizations, and attended hearings, briefings and meetings with leaders of the Macedonia, European, and American governments. They promoted Macedonian culture and educational advocacy, and in doing so gained a deeper understanding of the complexity of what it means to be Macedonian.

Testimonials

“My time at the UMD has been an incredible experience. I have been able to gain a deeper understanding of the regional politics of the Western Balkans and American Foreign Policy. I hope that I will be able to use this experience in the future as I continue to be an advocate for Macedonian issues.”

Tammy Randall

“Interning for UMD gave me a chance to learn more about a region I am extremely passionate about. It was a great chance to build off of the knowledge that I had gained after studying abroad in the Balkan region. I hope that this knowledge will enable me to pursue a career in Western Balkan affairs.”

Austin Doehler
UMD not only taught me about Macedonia but also showed me the resiliency of the country. I am always in awe of the perseverance of the people around the world that continue to be attached to their heritage and are proud of it. I will forever be grateful to UMD for giving me the opportunity to learn about Macedonia and Macedonians.”

Michelle Lengel

“Throughout my time here, UMD provided me with indispensable work experience and a multitude of opportunities that developed my professional skillset and embraced my full potential.”

Cam Bosak

“I loved being part of the UMD team, it was a great experience! This opportunity allowed me to represent the interests and culture of Macedonia and Macedonians, helped me to develop myself professionally, and has pushed me to think creatively about the importance of diplomatic relationships and regional partnerships!”

Kayla Gruber

“As a Macedonian, working at UMD has allowed me to learn about my culture and support my homeland. The skills that I’ve learned during my time at UMD proved invaluable as I continue to work toward a career in international relations. I’m incredibly thankful to Meto and UMD for the opportunity to make a difference in Macedonia and get closer to my heritage.”

Luka Petrusevski

UMD Hosted Live Book Launch of The Pain-Free Path to College

In November, UMD headquarters held a Facebook live book launch of The Pain-Free Path to College: A Step-By-Step Guide to College Admission and Life Success by past UMD Board Member Aleksandra Trpkovska. The launch attracted over 4,900 viewers online.

The Pain-Free Path to College: A Step-By-Step Guide to College Admission and Life Success has enjoyed enormous success, having launched as a #1 Bestseller and New Release across multiple categories on Amazon. Trpkovska’s step-by-step guide simplifies the process of college applications and offers proven strategies, tactics, and checklists, and offers parents and students the chance to strengthen their relationship while embedding the foundations for future success.
UMD recognizes the generosity of our Macedonian Companions. 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 provide vital financial support for UMD to continue preserving, promoting, and protecting the Macedonian heritage worldwide.

As a proud Macedonian Companion, you will help UMD to:

- Preserve our Macedonian name, identity, and culture;
- Promote Macedonian interests to global policy makers;
- Aid Macedonians in need through charitable projects;
- Convey our rich historical and cultural legacies to the world and to our youth.

WHAT IS THE MACEDONIAN COMPANIONS PROGRAM?

The Macedonian Companions program will ideally constitute 300 supporters, each contributing a tax-deductible donation of $1,000 (or more) annually. These funds enable UMD to preserve Macedonia’s heritage and to champion our struggle for justice. The UMD Advisory Council provides oversight and accountability for the use of these funds on an ongoing basis.
BELOW: List of Donors, in alphabetical order, who donated a total of $1,000 or more in 2017:

Anonymous
Anonymous
Bill Argo
Vera Arsova
John Bitove
Jordan Bitove
Nick Bitove
Thomas J. Bitove, O.Ont.
Vonna Bitove
Kristina Bojkovski
Alex Chevrevski
Peter Dallas
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Troy Murray
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Lidija Stojkoska
Dr. Chris Stefanovich
Fleming Stojanovski
Nicholas Thaw
Stojan Trajkov
Lou Vlasho
Mike & Robin Zafirovski

RIGHT: UMD Macedonian Companion Chris T. Antoniou receiving National Veterans Legal Services Program Award, pictured with wife Lydia, UMD President, and CNN’s Wolf Blitzer.
2017 UMD GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

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Marija Malinovska, Los Angeles, California
Gordana Mirkoska, Washington, D.C.
Konstantin Nakovski, Cleveland, Ohio
David Turkaleski, DMV Steering Committee Chair

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Natasha Carovska, Creative Director
Ace Stankovski, Director of Outreach
Katerina Gorgievskaja, At-Large Member
Mirjana Kuzmanovski, At-Large Member
Dillon Ognenovski, At-Large Member
Elena Temelkova, At-Large Member
It is Time For Macedonians to Define Their Future and Write the Legacy Our Children Will Honor!

Help secure UMD’s ongoing global impact and charitable efforts, while continuing to meet our core objective: Successful Macedonian Communities for future generations.

How will you be remembered?

Have you thought about what legacy you wish to convey to your loved ones?

How will you impart your Macedonian values and heritage to them?

Help support UMD’s continual promotion and advocacy of Macedonia and Macedonian people around the world while at the same time allowing our donors to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

You have a number of options when it comes to your charitable giving.

UMD in conjunction with The Cleveland Foundation staff will work closely with you and your tax and estate planning professionals to identify and develop the most effective customized strategy in order to choose the type of gift that meets your needs when making your donation.

We will work closely with you to tailor solutions that meet your charitable giving needs, offer the maximum charitable tax deductions, and provide many ways to incorporate charitable giving into your estate plans.

If you would like to make a planned gift to UMD, and/or include UMD as a charitable beneficiary of your estate plans, or would like to learn more about how you can help UMD through its Endowment Fund, please contact Metodija A. Koloski at (202) 350-9804 or Donald L. Sazdanoff at (419) 884-8309 for further details.

Lifetime Visionaries
The Bitove Foundation
Marian & Michael Ilitch

Sons & Daughters of Macedonia
John and Elizabeth Anevski
Goran & Divna Popovski
Nicholas Thaw & Irena Gapkovska
Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

As the Treasurer of UMD, I am pleased to submit our 2017 UMD financial report.

2017 was a busy year, full of numerous and important projects for UMD, benefiting the global Macedonian community. Some projects required the use of more financial and other resources. Over 1,000 volunteer hours went into UMD’s programs thanks to our numerous volunteers and interns. UMD strongly believes in investing in our community, our children, and you!

We closed the year with a negative change in net assets of $21,446. In 2017, UMD reported and operated without consolidation with Canadian entities. UMD’s membership dues, donations and program revenue in 2017 amounted to $83,877 - a significant decrease form 2016. Additionally, UMD collected $38,738 in special events revenue such as Ajvar 5K, Masquerade, and Conferences etc. Most of the decrease in revenue is due to change in strategical and administrative operations in North America, and without consolidation with Canada. In 2017, UMD received $6,150 in Funding the Future Endowment gifts and reported earnings of $2,487 from endowment portfolio.

Based on member suggestions and the board’s approval, UMD used 51% of the operational budget on educational and philanthropic programs and 39% on cultural programs. Educational and philanthropic programs included: #SupportMacedonia flood disaster relief efforts, Ajvar 5K races aiding children with Down syndrome and autism, MALC2017, Generation M, Birthright Macedonia, UMD’s internship program, hosting briefings, Facebook live events, and roundtables at the UMD office and in the U.S. Congress, Immigrant Heritage Month, and more. Cultural programs included: the 12th Annual Masquerade, UMD Rockin’ Party, publication of Macedonia 2013: 100 Years After the Treaty of Bucharest, promoting Macedonia at cultural festivals, movie screenings, and many other events throughout the year that promoted our wonderful and rich language, culture, and traditions.

UMD is committed to the highest standards of good stewardship and accountability, and will continue to act in a fiscally responsible manner to safeguard UMD and its future. Once again, we thank you for your support of UMD’s critical work.

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.

Lidija Stojkoska
UMD Board Member and Treasurer

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

- Anonymous
# 2017 Financial Report

## Statement of Activities

*2017 Consolidated*

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Events and Programs</td>
<td>$38,738</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues and Donations</td>
<td>$83,877</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support and Other Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$122,615</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational and Philanthropic Programs</td>
<td>$77,577</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural and Other Programs</td>
<td>$40,626</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and Administrative</td>
<td>$21,520</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations and Special Events</td>
<td>$12,561</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$152,284</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Change in Net Assets

$ (29,669)
## Statement of Activities

### Retrospective Consolidated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Description</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Events &amp; Programs</td>
<td>$38,738</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$75,885</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues &amp; Donations</td>
<td>$83,877</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>$183,399</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$8,223</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support &amp; Other Revenue</strong></td>
<td>**$130,838</td>
<td>100%**</td>
<td>**$271,784</td>
<td>100%**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational &amp; Philanthropic Programs</td>
<td>$77,577</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>$109,443</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural &amp; Other Programs</td>
<td>$40,626</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>$92,385</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>$21,520</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$23,719</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations &amp; Special Events</td>
<td>$12,561</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>$12,345</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>**$152,284</td>
<td>100%**</td>
<td>**$237,891</td>
<td>100%**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$(21,446)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$33,893</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UMD Fund Usage Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### UMD Income Sources Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
An investment in UMD is an investment in the future of Macedonia and our children!

Founded in 2004, United Macedonian Diaspora is a global voice promoting Macedonia and Macedonian causes, and safeguarding Macedonia’s name, human rights for all, promoting equality and democracy, and preserving Macedonian culture. UMD provides scholarships, conducts youth leadership programs, organizes an annual Birthright trip to Macedonia, and gives aid to children with disabilities in Macedonia, and disaster relief efforts.

Categories (Annual Renewal):

$50 - Generation M
$84 - Macedonian Companions Monthly Contribution
$100 - Individual
$250 - Family
$500 - Business/Organization
$1,000 - Macedonian Companions Annual Contribution

UMD is a not-for-profit organization recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). Your membership gift to UMD is tax exempt to the extent permitted by law.
JOIN THE
UNITED MACEDONIAN DIASPORA
TODAY & HELP THE
MACEDONIAN
CAUSE EVERY DAY!
UNITED WE CAN!
In Memory of Our Lifetime Visionary and UMD Macedonian Companion

Mike Ilitch

1929-2017

True Visionary for the City of Detroit
Role Model for American Society
Proud of, and Never Forgetting, His Macedonian Roots
An Example for All of Us to Follow

Thank you from,

The United Macedonian Diaspora Board of Directors, Advisory Council Members, Global Representatives, and Young Leaders – Generation M