2019
ANNUAL REPORT

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CELEBRATING 15 YEARS of UNITING MACEDONIANS
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ABOUT US

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2004, the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) is the leading non-governmental, non-partisan, non-political educational advocacy organization promoting the interests of Macedonians and Macedonian communities worldwide. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., UMD’s presence is felt throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia, with membership spanning six continents.

OUR VISION

We envision an influential, respected, and united Macedonian diaspora committed to building and sustaining the global Macedonian community. Macedonians are responsible for one another.

OUR OBJECTIVES

• Safeguard Macedonia’s name and culture as well as the 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

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

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
2019 UNITED MACEDONIAN DIASPORA'S YEAR IN REVIEW

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTHRIGHT MACEDONIA WITH 9 PARTICIPANTS

25 MENTORS FOR THE UMD MACEDONIA STARTUP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

16 MACEDONIAN FILM SCREENINGS COMBINED OF MOCKING OF CHRIST & SECRET INGREDIENT

11 BITOVE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

120+ GUESTS AT MACEDONIAN OLD NEW YEAR'S MASQUERADE BALL

9 INTERNS AT UMD OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

10 UMD VOICE ARTICLES TOTALING OVER 10,000 VIEWS

3 NEW MACEDONIAN CAUCUS MEMBERS

8 NEW GENERATION M REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES EXPAND TO AUSTRALIA AND ITALY

8 MACEDONIA ECONOMIC BRIEFS

2 PANEL DISCUSSIONS IN U.S. CONGRESS ON MACEDONIA

2 BOOK PROMOTIONS OF MACEDONIAN AUTHORS

130+ MAKTIVISTS MEETINGS IN U.S. CONGRESS

CELEBRATED 15 YEARS OF UMD
15 YEARS OF UMD IMPACT
A CREDIBLE, DEPENDABLE ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR THE INTERESTS OF MACEDONIANS GLOBALLY

Spearheaded movement of 40 “We Are Macedonia” rallies around the globe against the name change of our homeland

Hosted four Global Conferences with 2,500+ Macedonian leaders from 26 countries

Brought 32 youth to Macedonia on Birthright Macedonia

Inspired over 250 young Macedonians through 5 American and 4 Canadian Generation M conferences

Hosted 90 interns at the UMD office

Granted $90,000 in Bitove Scholarships to 54 college students

Published 474-page academic journal “Macedonia 2013: 100 Years After the Treaty of Bucharest”

Provided over $150,000 in humanitarian and flood relief aid to Macedonia

Reached an expansive social media following with over 150,000 monthly followers

Donated over $500,000 to Macedonian cultural and educational promotion activities

Helped to kick-start the first-ever bi-partisan Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans

2019 UMD ANNUAL REPORT
In November, the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) hosted its 15th Anniversary Celebration and Macedonian Diaspora 40 Under 40 Awards Ceremony at the Kimpton Hotel Monaco in Washington, D.C. Musical talents Kalina and Nev Neskoska performed two beautiful renditions of the U.S. and Macedonian National Anthems kicking off the event.

In a letter to UMD, Macedonia’s first Ambassador to the United States and Honorary UMD Advisory Council Member, Ambassador, Ljubica Z. Acevska, highlighted UMD’s 15 years of accomplishments, saying: “I am honored to have been involved with UMD and the remarkable people who formed this organization that has become international in scope.”

UMD President Metodija A. Koloski gave opening remarks. He emphasized the importance of uniting the Diaspora and UMD’s continued commitment to the Macedonian people: “15 years ago, we looked around D.C. and saw no voice for our people, no one advocating for us. So, we decided, why not become that voice.” He further touched upon the global nature of UMD and attendees who traveled from Australia, Canada, Belgium, Macedonia, Romania, and from throughout the U.S. to be there.

UMD presented a special plaque to Dr. Yalcin Ayasli, founder of the Turkish Coalition of America. Dr. Ayasli received this recognition for his long-time support of UMD and its mission over the past 15 years. During his acceptance speech, he praised UMD’s role in uniting Macedonians and fondly recalled his visit to Macedonia in 2012 when he received the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award in the presence of then-Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov.
Following mingling and networking, UMD Indiana Chair Argie N. Bellio and the brains behind 40 under 40 began the Awards Ceremony. Bellio congratulated the 200 Macedonians who received the award over the past five years and highlighted the accomplishments of a few of the night’s awardees: Saska Gochevska, an OBGYN living in Brussels, Belgium; Andrew Damcevski, co-founder of a financial investment firm; Aleksandar Popovski, owner of a nationally recognized credential evaluation and translation company; and Allison Brager, U.S. Army Captain and Doctor in the field of NeuroScience. UMD presented awards to thirty 40 Under 40 Award recipients who could travel for the ceremony.

After the awards presentation, UMD Co-Founder and Vice President, and one of the 40 under 40 recipients, Aleksandar Mitreski talked about the accomplishments of UMD over the past 15 years and the importance of unity in all of this: “As we have demonstrated over the past 15 years, unity is one of our core tenets. All of us tonight, we are responsible for how far UMD has come. And we are responsible for how far UMD will go in the future.”

Later in the evening, UMD Advisory Council member and Finance is Personal TV Host Elizabeth Naumovski spoke about the importance of giving to UMD’s critical missions, stating that “With more funds, we can send more students to Macedonia, provide more scholarships, and support more Macedonian cultural programming in the arts, literature, and music.”

Returning to the podium, UMD President Metodija Koloski presented a second special plaque to Keynote Speaker Judge Philip S. Naumoff – elected to the bench in November 2018. With tears in his eyes, Judge Naumoff provided keynote remarks and talked about the significance of his
own heritage, specifically how his father was a child refugee as a result of the Greek Civil War fleeing to former Czechoslovakia and the trials and tribulations our people have gone through at the hands of Greek oppression. Naumoff recognized UMD for serving as the much-needed voice for Macedonians. The audience was captivated and inspired by his remarks.

UMD Chairman Stojan Nikolov concluded the evening’s speaking program with an outlook for UMD’s future. He said, “We want UMD to keep being innovative and continue to be a leading voice for the Macedonian people and our interests. With this in mind, we have spent the weekend redefining our mission and our purpose to meet the challenges in the years to come. There will be obstacles, but with a clear vision, purpose, and drive, UMD will be able to overcome these challenges and continue working for our people.”

UMD thanks everyone who came out to celebrate UMD’s 15 Anniversary and the accomplishments of our 40 Under 40 honorees.

See the inside back cover for additional photos of this celebration!
Throughout May, UMD proudly announced the winners of its 5th Annual Macedonian Diaspora’s 40 under 40 List. With these Awards, UMD recognizes the talent, the accomplishments, the potential, and the pride in their Macedonian heritage of these 40 honorees and all under the age of 40.

Blaze Arizanov - Borisovo, Macedonia
Sasho Bitove - Gabresh and Ohrid, Macedonia
Zvonko Blazevski - Tearce and Vratnica in the Tetovo region, Macedonia
Yane Coceski - Raca, Ohrid, Macedonia
Andrew Damcevski - Bitola, Macedonia
Michael Dameski - Prilep, Macedonia
Elena Dunovska - Struga and Ohrid, Macedonia
Susan Dutcher - Orhevo, Macedonia
Dr. Aleksandra Fortier - Skopje and Veles, Macedonia
Kristijan Ilijevski - Drmeni and Evla, Macedonia
Kristina Ivanovska - Bitola, Macedonia
Kiro Ivanovski - Skopje, Macedonia
Mishko Josifov - Kavadarci, Macedonia
Marijana Josifovska - Bitola, Macedonia
Alexander Karapancev - Skopje and Prilep, Macedonia
Maksimilijan Kazakov - Skopje, Macedonia
Kristian Korlevski - Smilevo and Staravina, Macedonia
Risto Kotevski - Velusina and Brajcino, Macedonia
Deanna Kozarov - Capari and Mogila, Macedonia
Madi Krstevski - Macedonia
Christina Laskovski - Bitola and Gavato/Lavci, Macedonia
Aleksandra Milosevska - Ohrid, Macedonia
Nikol Mitanoska - Village of Nakolec in Prespa, Macedonia
Ozzie Mitson - Macedonia Dragana Ognenovska- Kocani and Bitola, Macedonia
Cedi Osman - Ohrid, Macedonia
Divna Pesic Grozdanov - Strumica and Kavadarci, Macedonia
Aleksandar Popovski - Struga, Macedonia
Pece Sekulovski - Arvati and Krani, Macedonia
Sonja Sekulovski - Odri and Tetovo, Macedonia
Nicole Servinis - Sveta Petka, Macedonia
Joshua Sherman - Bitola & villages of Lera and Lavci, Macedonia
Joe Speredon - German, Macedonia
Alexandria Srbinovski - Ljubojno and Bitola, Macedonia
Kliment Stevoff - Ohrid, Macedonia
Daniel Stojanovski - Demir Hisar and Bitola, Macedonia
Ivanco Talevski - Bitola, Macedonia
Slavche Tanevski - Sveti Nikole, Macedonia
Adriana Trajkovski - Orovnik and Kumanovo, Macedonia
Dr. Aleksandar Velkoski - Ržanovo and Bitola, Macedonia
Advocacy, Education, Human Rights, Policy

UMD is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. As such, UMD does not endorse or oppose political parties or candidates. Meetings are solely to educate policymakers and the public on issues concerning Macedonians.

As the leading voice in the advocacy space among Macedonian communities worldwide, UMD prides itself on its four Ps policy: patriotism, professionalism, persistence, and patience. While many times our leadership, volunteers, and staff get discouraged over constant obstacles being thrown at the Macedonian community-at-large, we never give up educating and promoting Macedonian human rights, religious freedom, and values.

2019 started with the successful defeat of Senate Resolution 602, which praised the 2018 Prespa Agreement and the changing of Macedonia’s name, as well as the defeat of House Resolution 804 calling on Macedonia to agree to a new name that respects Greece’s demands. The effective educational advocacy done to defeat both these shameful resolutions is a testament to the growing engaged and concerned Macedonian-American community. Many meetings with members of Congress and respective staff, conducted by Macedonian-American leaders throughout the previous year, appreciated hearing our concerns and were astonished by the blunders made by the Prespa Agreement and the governments of Zaev and Tsipras.

January 11

UMD condemned the Macedonian Parliament’s decision to approve constitutional amendments to formally change Macedonia’s name as a result of the Prespa Agreement. The Prespa Agreement hands control of Macedonia’s education, our history, and our very right to exist over to a foreign power and bureaucratic tribunals.

January 15

SBS Interviewed UMD Australia Director Ordan Andreevski on the Name Change.

January 21

UMD condemned the racist and violent protests in Greece. Thousands took to the streets in Athens objecting to the Greek Government’s support for the Prespa Agreement. The clashes involved more than 60,000 protestors, and regrettably, descended into racist and derogatory chants directed at Macedonia. While the name change issue evokes strong emotions, both in Greece and Macedonia, UMD denounced in the strongest possible way violence of any sort and any language that targets race, color, or religion.
February 5

On the sidelines of the National Prayer Breakfast, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski met with Macedonia’s great friend European Member of Parliament from Croatia, Marijana Petir. Koloski reiterated UMD’s opposition to the EU policy on Macedonia’s name change and the Prespa Agreement.

February 27

Congressman Mitchell had the BBC article published in the Congressional Record, following UMD’s meeting. This will be forever kept in the record and anytime a member of Congress, Congressional staffer, or researcher searches the terms “Macedonia,” “Greece,” or “Macedonian minority,” the BBC article will show in their search results.

On social media, Congressman Mitchell stated “Always great to see friends from the United Macedonian Diaspora to discuss Macedonia’s move to join NATO and the European Union. As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian Americans, and representative of one of the largest Macedonian populations in the United States, I’m dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Macedonia.”

UMD’s efforts are long-term, and with the support of the Macedonian-American community and the friends of Macedonia community, we will continue to champion Macedonian causes.

Late February

In late February, Koloski and Generation M Global Co-Chair Kristina Dimitrievski conducted a series of meetings with members of the Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans, specifically Congressman Jim Banks (R-IN), Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Brendan Boyle (D-PA), and new Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Paul Mitchell (R-MI).

Members reaffirmed their strong support of the Macedonian-American community and pledged continued reference to our homeland under our rightful name – Macedonia. Koloski and Dimitrievski briefed the members of Congress on the latest developments in Macedonia, and UMD’s opposition to the Prespa Agreement, particularly due to its whitewashing of Greece’s tragic past regarding the Macedonian minority within its borders. UMD provided the members with copies of the February 24, 2019 BBC Article “Greece’s invisible minority – the Macedonian Slavs,” which eloquently summarized many of the trials and tribulations Macedonians have faced since 1913.
March 12

Koloski testified during a televised hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs chaired by Congresswoman Nita Lowey. He said, “U.S. foreign relations and USAID funding should address the most pressing unmet needs in Macedonia, such as media freedom, rule of law, economic problems, and the grave environmental situation in the country.”

April 10

Dimitrievski met Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (D-MI). The Congresswoman was excited to meet a Macedonian in Washington, D.C., and expressed eagerness to work with the Macedonian-American community in Michigan’s 8th district.

May 16

UMD wholeheartedly congratulated Vasil Sterjovski, the first-ever Macedonian to become a member of the Albanian Parliament, representing the Macedonian minority community in Albania belonging to the party Macedonian Alliance for European Integration (MAEI). Upon taking the oath of office, Sterjovski stated “I have an historic responsibility to convey to you greetings from the Macedonians, who are loyal citizens of the Republic of Albania, because it is their home country...Macedonians in Albania helped liberate Albania from fascism (during WWII) and became an important part of this country.” Sterjovski is one of only a handful of members of national parliaments in the world of Macedonian heritage. Albania joins France, Germany, and Romania who have members of Parliament with Macedonian heritage. UMD used the opportunity to encourage the Albanian Parliament to translate its website into Macedonian, and other minority languages to give equal access to minorities in Albania to understand the workings of Parliament and the decisions they are taking for the entire Albanian citizenry.

June

Throughout June and as part of UMD’s advocacy work, Macedonian-American volunteer advocates, spearheaded by UMD member Marija Georgievski, held meetings with the offices of Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH), Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Congressman Bob Gibbs (R-OH), Macedonia Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Steve Stivers (R-OH), Congressman Bob Latta (R-OH), and Congressman Bill Johnson (R-OH).
June 14

UMD laid a wreath in memory and honor of all Macedonian victims of communism in former Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Greece during the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation’s Annual Roll Call of Nations. Over 70 embassies and organizations participated.

June 25

Koloski met with Congressman Tim Burchett (R-TN), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Europe Subcommittee. They briefly spoke about the Macedonian-American community in Knoxville and Macedonia’s NATO membership.

June 26

Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH) joined the bipartisan Macedonia Caucus, following a meeting with UMD members Marija Georgievski, Steve Anevski, and Mike Stakleff.
August 3

UMD Ohio members Marija Georgievski and Dr. Patricia Petroff attended a Town Hall and met Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH) and spoke to her about the Macedonian-American community in the Cleveland area.

August 8

Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH) met with his Macedonian constituents and UMD Members Marija Georgievski, Klement Stevoff, Valentina Dokovski, Filip Dokovski, Jonce Georgievski and Stella Atanasovski in Sheffield Village, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss U.S. Foreign Policy in Macedonia and improving relations between the United States and Macedonia.

August 16

Balkan Insider interviewed Koloski on homophobic slurs made by Prime Minister Zoran Zaev towards the LGBTQ+ community in Macedonia, and the Special Prosecutor’s Office “raket” scandal.

August 13

Congresswoman Hayley Stevens (D-MI) joined the bipartisan Macedonia Caucus. Michigan-based UMD Board Members George Peters and UMD Michigan Chair Deana Janceski expressed their gratitude to the Congresswoman.

September 9

UMD Board appointed Marija Georgievski as the first volunteer National Advocacy Director. Georgievski, a proud Macedonian with roots from the Resensko region of Prespa, spent the past year building up the base for greater engagement by the Macedonian-American community and working on developing a 50-state strategy to expand efforts.

August 22

UMD Ohio members Marija Georgievski and Mike Stakleff met with Congressman Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) at his Cincinnati office to discuss U.S.-Macedonia relations and the Greater Cincinnati Macedonian-American Community.
September 16
UMD and the Macedonian Canadian Lawyers’ Association (MCLA) sent a letter to The New York Times regarding October’s Athens Democracy Forum addressing Greece’s mistreatment of Macedonian minorities and the suppression of their basic human rights and religious freedoms. The concerns raised in the NYTimes letter included human rights infringements perpetrated by Greece against ethnic Macedonians wishing for self-determination in Greece, as well as the Greek government’s refusal to allow the Macedonian Orthodox Church to operate in Greece, a violation of free association as defined by the European Court of Human Rights. Additional concerns included Greek treatment of the Roma community, continued Greek embargos, sanctions and political vetoes committed by Greece against Macedonia, and the Prespa Agreement.

September 19
UMD International Policy and Diplomacy Fellow Christine DiSanti met Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) and thanked the Congressman for joining the Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans earlier in the summer.

September 26

September 28
UMD VP Aleksandar Mitreski penned an op-ed following Zaev’s speech at the UN. Mitreski argued that the Prespa Agreement will provide Greece with hegemony over the adjective Macedonian, and as such have a long-term adverse effect on Macedonia’s economy, history, & culture.

October 2
Georgievski and UMD members Nikola Dzodzo and Kliment Stevoff met with the Office of Congressman Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH).

October 3
UMD sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo with recommendations regarding U.S. foreign policy interests towards Greece and Macedonia prior to his visit to both countries. Secretary Pompeo was the first U.S. Secretary of State to visit Macedonia in nearly two decades.

October 22
The U.S. Senate voted to ratify Macedonia’s NATO accession protocol. On the Senate floor, the vote on the accession of Macedonia to NATO passed overwhelmingly with 91 “Yeas”. UMD welcomed the vote and applauded the U.S. Senate for ratifying the protocol and furthering Macedonia’s long-awaited and well-deserved accession into NATO, despite UMD’s strong opposition to the Prespa Agreement.

UMD condemned the decision by European Union leaders to block Macedonia’s bid for membership yet again. The decision was another blow to Macedonia’s EU integration hopes, and it compromises the affirmation by the European Union to expand and take in new members.
October 24

UMD Dallas Texas Chair Dr. Aleksandra Fortier joined American Jewish Committee’s Dallas Regional Director Joel C. Schwitzer for the 2nd Annual DFW Summit for Religious Freedom where they met and had lunch with a multi-faith religious delegation from Macedonia, including from the Macedonian Orthodox Church, the Islamic Religious Community, the United Methodist Church and the Jewish Community of Macedonia. UMD has been a strong proponent of religious freedom issues and a member of the International Religious Freedom Roundtable.

October 28

Georgievski, Ricky Mazella, and Richard F. Mazella, Vice President of Membership for the Polish American Congress met with the Office of Congressman Brian Higgins (D-NY).

November 8

A day before UMD’s 15th Anniversary Celebration and Macedonian Diaspora 40 Under 40 Awards Ceremony, UMD members, MAKtivists, gathered on Capitol Hill for a day of advocacy. Led in groups by Koloski and Georgievski, UMD met with offices of multiple Congress members from the House and the Senate. In attendance were Ms. Mariana Venera Popescu, a Member of the Parliament of Romania representing the Macedonian minority, Jim Pavle, UMD Advisory Council Member Jim Pavle, UMD Dallas Chair Dr. Aleksandra Fortier, UMD Dallas Chair, and UMD Indiana Chair Argie Bellio.

The morning started with meetings with the offices of Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), Congressman

October 29

Over 50 Congressional staffers and guests attended a joint US-Europe Alliance (USEA), United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD), and the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACBH) Congressional lunch briefing on the topic “Crisis of Euro-Atlantic Integration of the Western Balkans: What Will Fill the Vacuum?” Welcoming Remarks and Moderation were presented by Reuf Bajrovic of the US-Europe Alliance. Panelists included Ambassador Christopher Hill, University of Denver; Luke Coffey, The Heritage Foundation; Ajla Delkic, ACBH; and Koloski. Panelists discussed the implications of the EU rejection and the role of the United States in the region, focusing on the future of NATO enlargement process as well as the role of authoritarian powers like Russia and China.
Kenny Marchant (R-TX-24), Congressman John Ratcliffe (R-TX), and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C. Delegate). UMD members discussed the Macedonian-American Caucus, the Macedonian population in the U.S., and Macedonia-U.S. relations. In the afternoon, UMD representatives met with the offices of Congressman Troy Balderson (R-OH), Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-MD), and Congresswoman Val Demings (R-FL) to discuss these same issues.

In the afternoon UMD also held a powerful shared meeting with the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) and the office of Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN). Senator Klobuchar, of Slovenian heritage, sits on multiple committees including the Judiciary and Joint Economic Committees. Present at the meeting were representatives of Macedonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian heritage. Attendees discussed different existing Resolutions, NATO, China, and combatting Disinformation in the Baltic Region and the Balkans. UMD also hosted a lunch with the offices of the Chairs of the Macedonian-American Caucus: Brendan Boyle (PA), Paul Mitchell (MI), and Steve Stivers (OH). At this lunch, the House staffers shared strategic advice for growing the Macedonian-American caucus and discussed Caucus future goals.

November 20

Congressman Troy Balderson (R-OH) joined the bipartisan Macedonia Caucus. Upon joining, he stated:

“From the first Macedonian Ambassador to the U.S. Ljubica Acevska, who grew up in Mansfield, to the abundance of Macedonian-owned small businesses in Central Ohio, Macedonia has a rich history with the 12th Congressional District. As its representative, I’m thrilled to join the Macedonian American Congressional Caucus and support the United States’ relationship with this vibrant community.”

UMD representatives meet with the Office of Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH).

December 12

UMD strongly denounced a statement by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences that the Macedonian language does not exist and called on the EU to protest the statement by the Bulgarians since the denial of a language violates its long-standing language policy.
UMD strongly condemned the personal attacks and death threats following the appointment of Cr. Emilia Lisa Sterjova (above) as Mayor of the City of Whittlesea, Australia. Being elected the youngest female Mayor in Australian history at the age of 22, Emilia has accomplished something we encourage our daughters, and young people in general, to do: get involved in leadership, make a change. Instead of embracing Australia’s multiculturalism and celebrating passionate youth and ethnic diversity, Mayor Sterjova was attacked and bullied by members of the Greek community in Melbourne.

UMD sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo urging him to direct the U.S. Embassy in Skopje to conduct an inquiry into two statues in western Macedonia dedicated to known Nazi collaborators and seek their immediate removal by Macedonian authorities.

Veronika Tomova, UMD’s Macedonia Director, was very active in 2019 advocating for Macedonians both at home and in the diaspora. In March, Tomova attended the 18th Brussels European Forum on “Beyond Traditional Partnerships and International Cooperation under a New Global Order.” Tomova attended the Advocacy Committee where she questioned the illegal Prespa Agreement and pointed out the bias of using NATO membership as a basis for bilateral issues.

Also, in March, Tomova attended the Global Solutions Summit in Germany organized by the G20 Global Solutions Initiative. As issues centered on the European identity, as well as Eurocentrism and Euro-skepticism, Tomova asserted that internal issues such as the migrant crisis and the non-integration of Western Balkan countries may contribute to these dilemmas. Tomova also visited the ASPEN Institute in Berlin where she discussed reforms in the Balkans by encouraging a greater fight against corruption and entangled businesses in political matters, the need of establishing and maintaining objective media, immune to outside influence and disinformation, and improving the communication between the European Commission and the citizens in WB6 to assure more holistic reform.

In April, Tomova attended the 10th Anniversary of the Ivanov School of Young Leaders, which has long-standing ties to UMD’s Birthright Macedonia program.
Between February and May, Tomova attended a series of discussions on the importance of voting, Euro-Atlantic integrations, Brain-Drain, and gender equality.

May

In May, Tomova attended a meeting during Pope Francis’ Ecumenical and Inter-religious visit to Macedonia. Tomova emphasized distinguishing politics from religion and respecting different religions within multiethnic states.

Tomova attended a roundtable organized by the the Green Institute, on the topic of “How to Greenify the Urbanism instead of Urbanizing the Greenery.” Tomova highlighted the ways human capital from the Macedonian diaspora can be utilized to promote the Law of Urban Greenery, an initiative to promote greenery in urban areas.

Tomova participated in the Observing Committee regarding Slovenia’s 2019 elections to the European Parliament. Tomova stressed the importance and need for the Macedonian diaspora to engage itself in local, regional, and even federal activism. She met with incoming Slovenian Member of Parliament Irena Joveva of Macedonian heritage.

June

In June, Tomova attended the Regional Networking and BSOs Empowering Event organized by USAID in Skopje. Director Tomova participated in the launch of the Seavus Accelerator and discussed with attendees the cooperation with the diaspora, facilitation of their input to the ecosystem, and best practices for the Macedonian and regional Startup Community.

Cultural Preservation & Promotion

January 22

Over 120 Macedonians and friends of Macedonia attended the 14th Annual Macedonian Old New Year’s Masquerade Charity Ball, Vasilica Celebration, linking two Macedonian traditions, Orthodox New Year and the Vevchani Carnival. Despite massive snow that night, Masquerade Ball attendees came from near and far, from the greater Washington, D.C. area, Detroit, Michigan, and Toronto, Canada.
January

In January, UMD Generation M’s Board Secretary Filip Simeski hosted a screening of Macedonia’s Oscars foreign film submission Secret Ingredient at Stanford University. Thanks to the efforts of UMD Council member Jason Miko, we co-partnered with the Phoenix Film Festival and the film was shown three times in Arizona between April 8-14 winning several festival awards. Two more screenings were organized, one in Fort Lauderdale on May 6, another in Chicago on May 9. The screenings brought in hundreds of patrons, giving the film even more recognition.

OVER 1,000 PATRONS, 10 GREAT CITIES, AND 1 AMAZING FILM

**MOCKING OF CHRIST**

“Mocking of Christ,” a movie about people who are searching for their identity and the fear from what they can discover from it captured the hearts and minds of over 1000 viewers, many with compelling questions for Director Jani Bojadzi at the eight screenings he was able to attend. The film tells a compelling story of a man searching for a father he never met, and a woman, a photojournalist, who follows him in his search, fascinated by his story. The film highlights the tragic history of Macedonia and how it still affects the Macedonians to this day. While the film also emphasizes the struggle for many to rediscover their roots, it also beautifully showcases the importance of Macedonian culture and the preservation of its rich landscape.

The film served as a unifying force in all communities it was shown. Despite the Macedonian government imped ing the showings of the film in Macedonia, the Diaspora communities value freedom of speech and freedom for artists to express themselves without fear of retribution.

Thanks to the support of so many, over the course of February to April, UMD hosted ten screenings and premieres in Birmingham, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Hawthorne, New Jersey; Los Angeles, California; New York City, New York; Rochester, New York; Toronto, Ontario (in collaboration with the Macedonian Film Festival); and Washington, D.C. This was the first-time since 2010 that UMD has organized a full North American tour of a Macedonian film – last was “A Name is A Name.”
UMD hosts screenings of Mocking of Christ in ten cities across the United States and Canada.
April

In April, UMD loaned three Macedonian items to be on display in the Map Room of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus where traffic for the month was over 25,000 visitors.

The items loaned were:
- Lavish earrings with Doves, from the village of Trebenishte, near the third oldest lake in the world, Lake Ohrid, #Macedonia. They are from the 2nd Century B.C.
- Sv. Nikola (Saint Nicholas) Icon from Macedonia – one of the most popular and beloved saints in the Orthodox Tradition.
- Some Great Old Stories From the Old Country – Macedonia by Dr. Michael Seraphinoff.

The Albanian-American and Polish-American communities joined in the display as well. Above the display were the 2 winners of an Eastern European Month Art Contest from Carylwood Intermediate School in Bedford, Ohio. Special thanks to Laurel A. Tombazzi, Chairperson of the Eastern European Congress of Ohio for her hard work in keeping Eastern European culture alive in the State of Ohio – home to over 100,000 Americans of Macedonian heritage.

August 4

On August 4, the Macedonian Diaspora in the Bay Area, California celebrated Ilinden at Stanford University spearheaded by Simeski. The same day, the Macedonian Diaspora in Seattle, Washington held their annual Ilinden Picnic at Waverly Park organized by UMD Seattle Chair Gjorgji Gjorgjievski. It was great seeing so many Macedonians in one place! Long live the Macedonian Republic and cheers to many more Ilinden celebrations. Да ни е вечна! Среќен Илинден!

August 4

On August 4, young Macedonian-Americans met in Glendale, California to participate in a Western Bank Heist-themed Escape Room. No ... They did not escape in time but managed to outsmart a sheriff here and there. The Macedonian-Americans that met up this past Sunday drove in from different parts of California which include Los Angeles County, Ventura County, and Orange County. Special thanks to Generation M Board Member Natasha Carovska for organizing.
On September 8, UMD hosted a scenic Potomac Riverboat Cruise on the Nightingale to celebrate 75 years of Macedonian Statehood and 28 years of Macedonia’s Independence. With beautiful weather and a view of the Washington, D.C. monuments, guests were treated to food, dancing, and watching the sunset over the Potomac River. Our forty attendees enjoyed Ajvar, Galichnik cheese, along with other Macedonian favorites, and danced the Macedonian Oro. UMD member Filip Jotevski on the tapan, accompanied by Cagla Giray on the tarabuka, entertained the guests all night.

September 8

UMD Florida Chair Mishko Josifov hosted a celebratory picnic in Miami to commemorate Macedonian Independence Day.

October 18-20

UMD was one of the sponsors of the 14th Annual Macedonian Film Festival in Toronto, Canada, which hosted over 350 guests over the course of the weekend. The festival, attended by many UMD President Koloski, and UMD members, including Council members Vonna Bitove and Elizabeth Naumovski (who sit on the festival board), Chris Paliare and Marilyn Trenitos, screened the highly popular Oscars-nominated film Honeyland about Macedonian beekeeper of Turkish heritage, Hatidze Muratova.

November 16

UMD hosted a discussion and book launch with the former Macedonian Ambassador to France and Macedonian playwright, writer, and poet, Professor Jordan Plevnes. Plevnes’s novel “The Eighth Wonder of the World” was translated by D.C.-based Plamen Press owned by Czech-Macedonian-American Roman Kostovski.
Leadership Development

Birthright Macedonia Celebrates 5th Year

UMD, and its local partner in Skopje, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), were thrilled to organize the fifth run-through of the Birthright Macedonia program from June 29th to July 19th. Nine young Macedonians – Marija Anevska, Nicole Krings, Evan Nitchov, Luka Petrushevski, Anastasia Stojcev, Stefani Taskova Miteva, Dona Todorovska, Erin Velloff, and Kylee Velloff – who live in Australia, Canada, and the United States participated and reconnected with their Macedonian roots. Some had never been to Macedonia before.

16 media outlets in Macedonia covered the opening ceremony and interviewed participants.

The nine young Macedonians lived with host families, visited many of Macedonia’s rich heritage sites and festivals, and interned at institutions associated with their academic goals, their career, and their common interests. Internships were conducted in the office of the Macedonian President, Ministry of Diaspora, SOS Children’s Vil-

Above: Birthright Macedonia participants attend the opening ceremony.

Below Left: Participants visit the Macedonian Orthodox Church of Saint John on Lake Ohrid.

Below Right: A celebratory cake enjoyed by participants.

Marija Anevksa, from Australia, said that seeing the beautiful sites of Macedonia was “[a] wonderful opportunity to experience Macedonia from a unique perspective. The Birthright program has provided me with experiences, memories, and friendships that will last a lifetime.”

After experiencing the Galichnik traditional wedding festival, Evan Nitchov, of Canada said “It was great experiencing my country’s culture as well as old traditions. The trip organizers as well as participants helped create a great environment. A must-see for any young Macedonian looking to explore their roots.”

It was a big celebration to end the students’ time in Macedonia! Generation M’s Australia Representative, Stefani Taskova Miteva noted that “Birthright Macedonia is an important program which every young adult with Macedonian heritage should participate in at least once. Apart from exposing you to another country, you get to meet new people from all over the world with different backgrounds. I had a great time during Birthright, and if I could do it again, I wouldn’t give it another thought.”

“Participating in Birthright allowed me to experience Macedonia like I never would have been able to if I was just visiting there. I was able to experience the culture and explore the city of Skopje. I met so many amazing people and have memories that will last a lifetime.” – Kylee Velloff, USA.

“Birthright was an amazing experience for me, especially as a third-generation Macedonian American. I had never been to Macedonia before, and this program allowed me to be fully immersed in the culture and placed with a wonderful host family. I even had the opportunity to meet my cousins that still live there. Thank you, Birthright, for the unforgettable experience!” – Erin Velloff, USA.

At the closing reception at Arka Hotel rooftop overlooking all of Skopje, UMD presented recognition plaques to Birthright Macedonia Founder Peter Dallas for helping to bring the program to fruition and giving back to our homeland; and to MCIC’s Jasmina Chaushoska and Aleksandar Krzalovski for their outstanding service to Birthright Macedonia over the past 5 years, their hard work and dedication to making Birthright what it is today.
Generation M Young Leaders’ Program

The new year brought new faces – and new frontiers – to Generation M – the United Macedonian Diaspora’s global young leaders’ program.

January

In January, Generation M welcomed eight regional representatives located in Canada, the United States, and the first-ever European and Australian representatives. With skill sets ranging from International Relations and Human Rights to Health Sciences and Economics, they were more than ready to take the Macedonian Diaspora’s youth scene by storm.

Ivana Iliev - Windsor, Canada
Evgenija Kiteska - Michigan, USA
Francesca Metlov – Chicago, USA
Jasmina Naum – Maryland, USA
Ena Peeva – Italy
Alexander Polinsky – Chicago, USA
Jana Savevska – Toronto Area, Canada
Stefani Taskova Miteva – Australia

Generation M Global Co-Chairs Kristina Dimitrievski and Petar Petrovski said, “With more active ambassadors than ever, we’re beyond excited to spread the word about the programs we help run and the mission we so deeply care about.”

Luka Petrusevski, Generation M’s Chair of Canadian Operations said: “With the selection of these representatives, I hope that we’ve set the tone for what Generation M has in store for 2019. This team is filled with individuals who are passionate about Macedonia and care about its future; something that I’m sure will become self-evident as the year goes on. That being said, it’s time for us to get to work. We’ve got big goals and I couldn’t be more excited to welcome our new members on board!”
Over the first two quarters of 2019, Generation M’s team hosted Birthright Macedonia Info Sessions at various Macedonian Orthodox Churches, which were led by Emilija Dimitrievski and Jana Savevska in Toronto and Mississauga, Canada, Stefani Taskova Miteva and Marija Anevska in Melbourne, Australia (in attendance were Birthright alumni James Cvetkovski and Jeremy Drossinis), Francesca Metlov in Chicago, and Ivana Iliev and Vanessa Owen in Windsor, Canada. Each event sparked interest in the Macedonian cause and answered hundreds of burning questions from participant hopefuls and their parents.

Early 2019

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February 8-10

The 5th Macedonian-American Leadership Conference (MALC2019) was held in Miami, Florida from February 8-10, at Florida International University (FIU)’s Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. During MALC2019, which exceeded expectations, Macedonian-Americans and Macedonians from throughout the world who attended focused on building bridges within respective communities and abroad. While enjoying Miami weather, participants delved into topics like women’s roles in the community and getting a seat at the table, youth leadership, benefits of outsourcing to Macedonia with the company IT Labs, healthy lifestyle management and medical tourism to Macedonia, as well as diplomacy and the Macedonian Diaspora as bridge builders. Keynote speech was by Romanian member of Parliament Mariana Venera Popescu. UMD’s Miami Chair Mishko Josifov, which spearheaded MALC2019 with Generation M’s Global Co-Chair Kristina Dimitrievski, delivered remarks on personal growth with lessons learned from Stephen R. Covey’s book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. The final day consisted of networking and team-building events, followed by a reception at the Versace Mansion and dinner at Macedonian-owned restaurant, CRUST. Special thanks to sponsors IT Labs, Vera & Frank Stavroff, and Anila Nicklos for making MALC2019 possible.

Feb. - May

Between February-May, Generation M’s Kristina Dimitrievski hosted a three-part series, Professional Foundations with Aleksandra Trpkovska, author of “The Pain-Free Path to College: A Step-by-Step Guide to College Admission and Life Success.” The Facebook Live workshops, which gained nearly 10,000 views, covered topics on continuing education and professional development for youth, such as budgeting, job interviews and resumes.

April 19

Generation M held their first retreat on April 19-21 in New York City where they strengthened their bonds, organizational and leadership skills.

May 24

On May 24, Saints Cyril and Methodius Day, Generation M - Melbourne got together over some drinks, Macedonian food and traditional music at Lé Léé Macedonian restaurant to discuss the importance of uniting and empowering Macedonian youth. Various ideas were introduced amongst our 19 attendees, one of which included a Generation M - Melbourne catch up in Macedonia over this summer, for those participating in Birthright or simply travelling within the region.
June

In June, Generation M hosted “Moral Compass and Cocktails” with Author Erika Teneva. Following some light-hearted socializing and reading, UMD’s Generation M Global Co-Chair Kristina Dimitrievski held a brief interview with Erika. A native-born Macedonian, Erika moved with her family at a young age to the United States. Eager to relearn her background, her Macedonian heritage, and her mother tongue, Erika began to spend her summers in Macedonia. After graduation, Erika published her first book “Moral Compass” as a collection of poems that has gained support within many communities, readers, and poetry enthusiasts.

June 18

Generation M’s Australia Representative Stefani Taskova Miteva met the Mayor of Novo Selo, Nikola Andonov. They discussed the potential of uniting Macedonian youth within Macedonia and the diaspora through initiatives such as the upcoming 2020 Ilinden Games in cooperation with Boots for Balkans, and the potential for sister cities and the creation of a pen pal, or пријател, program in hopes of uniting Macedonian youth and the broader Macedonian community in the diaspora.
June 21

Generation M Toronto and Mississauga Representatives Emilija Dimitrievski and Jana Savevska hosted Kafana Night at California Pub and Grill in Toronto. The event featured Macedonians and non-Macedonians alike mingling and enjoying the evening. The aims of the organizers were to break down the barriers within the Canadian-Macedonian community in the area and bring people of all ages together to celebrate the start of the summer.

June 25

Taskova Miteva was interviewed on the Skopje-based MRT together with Gonce Jakovleska, Executive Director of the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation, where they both discussed five years of Birthright Macedonia and its success.

November 30

Taskova Miteva presented her paper, “Macedonian Women: The Struggles of the Greek Civil War and 70 years of its ending” at a children refugees international scientific conference in Skopje, Macedonia. The paper will be published in a journal in 2020.

Published Articles

Over a dozen articles were published on Generation M’s publishing platform, UMD Voice Online Magazine, allowing young Macedonians to express themselves and write on issues important to them. The articles vary greatly amongst topics and styles, totaling to over 25,000 reads:

- UMD Voice Interview: Dukyan – Luxury Fashion Label by Elena Dunovska And Nikol Mitanoska written by Kristina Dimitrievski on January 8th
- Advocacy in D.C. For Macedonians Is Needed Now Than Ever Before written by Marija Georgievski on January 14th
- Poem: I Exist. written by Marija Anevska on January 23rd
- Institutions and Identity: Their Impact on Macedonia’s Economic Development written by Ilija Vlcevski on January 29th
- The Prespa Agreement Is A Mess — Here’s What We Do Next. written by Mario Hristovski on February 6th
- Macedonia: Name Change Yet No Change at All? written by Stefani Taskova Miteva on February 24th
- UMD Voice Interview: Erika Teneva, Author of Moral Compass written by Kristina Dimitrievski on February 28th
- Prespa Agreement Provisions Nullify Macedonians’ Rights to Repatriate written by Danilo Gjukovik on March 5th
- Macedonians Elect Their New President on Sunday. Here’s What We Can Expect written by Danilo Gjukovik on May 3rd
- The Prespa Agreement Unwrapped written by Alek Vasilevski on May 23rd
- Izabela Barakovska Learns the Ropes on Diplomacy and Democracy During Un Australia’s Young Diplomats Tour written by Izabela Barakovska on June 13th
- UMD Voice Interview: Life in The Fast-Lane with Race-Car Driver Kristian Talevski written by Kristina Dimitrievski on October 10th
- Failed EU Membership and New Elections: Chance for Revival or More of The Same? written by Danilo Gjukovikj on October 22nd
- Is Estonia’s Economic Model an Example for Macedonia? written by Danilo Gjukovik on October 25th
Throughout 2019, UMD hosted nine International Policy and Diplomacy Fellows at its global headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**Spring** - Rhiannon Bormann-Salazar & Gianna Paniagua

**Summer** - Taylor Clark, Nicole Fisher, Mathew Gutmann, Victoria Pollock, & Jacob Ramos

**Fall** - Christina DiSanti & Danilo Gjukovik

The program has provided a starting point for youth who aim to enter careers in fields such as foreign policy, journalism, advocacy, government, and more.

Intern responsibilities included monitoring legislation and congressional hearings; acting as a liaison between UMD and Congressional offices, advocating on subjects vital to the diaspora; attending events throughout Washington, D.C.; conducting research on issues affecting Macedonia and Southeast Europe, among other tasks.

**July 23**

UMD Summer Fellows had the opportunity to tour the United States Department of State, as well as talk to the Macedonian, Bosnian, and Turkish Desk Officers together with the Advisory Council on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Turkish Coalition of America interns. They got to ask questions about working for the Department as Foreign Service Officers as well as explore the other career tracks. UMD Board Member and Generation M Global Co-Chair Kristina Dimitrievski staffed the group.
**Economic Development**

**March**

In March, UMD began a new program in combination with Startup Macedonia and UKIM Business Accelerator, which provides Macedonian small businesses and enterprises with advice and mentorship on industry, operations, business development, funding, and more. 25 Diaspora mentors were paired with startups in Macedonia for a 6-month period. The program is spearheaded by UMD Macedonian Companion Zivko Bajevski.

**September**

In September, UMD announced a new publication: UMD Weekly Macedonia Economic Brief. This exciting new project is a weekly publication that focuses on news, analysis, projections, and reflections on economic performance in Macedonia. The brief puts forth the latest unbiased stories on Macedonian economic developments. On top of news stories, UMD’s publication features policy analysis, stock market performance and updates on Macedonia’s start-up scene.

**June 19**

UMD hosted a dinner for the newly confirmed U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia, Kate Byrnes. The dinner was attended by the Ambassador and her Chief of Mission, Jennifer R. Littlejohn, along with distinguished guests, members and supporters of UMD. Among those in attendance were representatives from various industries, all of whom have strong connections to Macedonia, either through heritage or business relations. The industries represented included Waste Management & Environmental Protection, Macedonian product importing, a Macedonian tech company, a Macedonian Healthcare company, auto-manufacturing industry, finance industry, legal industry, the pharmaceutical industry and news media. Attendees had the opportunity to voice their opposition to the U.S. position on Macedonia’s name and the Prespa Agreement and discuss Macedonian-American investor issues in the country, as well as enhancing U.S.-Macedonia economic and trade relations.
October 9-10

UMD Florida Chair Mishko Josifov and the Honorary Consul General of Macedonia to South Florida Dana Klein took part in the Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo (FITCE), the largest government hosted international trade and cultural conference in the state of Florida. UMD had its own Macedonia exhibition table during FITCE, which presented UMD with the unique opportunity to represent the organization and Macedonia through an economic lens. UMD’s presentation focused on the tourism, business, trade, and outsourcing potential of business between Macedonia, the U.S., and the world. Klein delivered remarks before FITCE attendees on the benefits of business between Florida, Europe, and Macedonia. Over the course of the expo, they met with high-level government leaders, international trade experts, and business delegations from around the world.

October 11

UMD hosted a roundtable discussion with Despodov, the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Macedonia. During the discussion, Despodov went over the current state of Macedonia’s economy, the labor shortage problem, obstacles to economic development, and recommendations to help stimulate Macedonia’s economy. Despodov stressed the need for long term economic plans, a more conducive start-up and entrepreneurial culture, and support for Macedonians as young as 3-6 to show that their home country can be bring them economic opportunities.

November 13-15

A UMD delegation attended the Macedonia 2025 Summit in Skopje, including UMD President Metodija A. Koloski, UMD Florida Chair Mishko Josifov, former UMD Macedonia Director Veronika Tomova, and Generation M Australia Representative Stefani Taskova Miteva. Macedonia 2025’s Chairwoman Vera Stavroff, a UMD Advisory Council member opened the Summit with a goal to contribute to the economic and democratic development of Macedonia. UMD Advisory Council member Elizabeth Naumovski delivered the keynote address on the topic “FOMO, YOLO, Debt & Discipline. The Things I Have Learned From Finance is Personal.” Many UMD members who are part of Macedonia 2025 attended the Summit, including John Bitove, Tom Bitove, Mike Zafirovski, Steve Anevski, Michael Cklamovski, and Chris Palovski. On the sidelines of the Summit, the UMD delegation met with former Macedonian President Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, the former Macedonian Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Vasko Naumovski, and 2013 UMD Lifetime Achievement Awardee and the renowned folklorist Atanas Kolarovski.
Community Outreach

June 20

Macedonians got together for a UMD Summer Soiree - Macedonians Making Muabet to catch up and talk at Macedonian-owned Art & Jakes Bar in Shelby Township, Michigan. UMD Board Member George Peters, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski, UMD Michigan Chair Deana Janceski, and UMD Advisory Council members Chris Evanoff and Don Sazdanoff attended. We had several Generation M members as well as former and current Birthright Macedonia participants. Sazdanoff and Koloski had several meetings in Detroit to promote the UMD Funding the Future Endowment.

July 9

Koloski attended the 77th Annual Macedonian Open - longest running golf tournament in Canada’s history - benefiting the Canadian Macedonian Place Foundation, which celebrated 40 years serving the Macedonian seniors’ population. UMD sponsored the John (Lazo) Bitove Trophy for Team Scrabble. Koloski pictured with John Bitove (who brought the Raptors to Toronto), Nikica Mojsoska, CEO of Macedonia 2025, and Mitko Andonov, a Macedonian businessman participating in one of Macedonia 2025’s programs in Toronto.

July 25

Koloski and Generation M’s Australia Representative Stefani Taskova Miteva met with Nikica Mojsoska, CEO of Macedonia 2025 to brainstorm for the November 2019 Macedonia 2025 Summit. They also had the honor of meeting with Blagoja Mladenovski, the last Holocaust survivor from Macedonia, as well the Goran Sadikarijo the CEO of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Skopje. They were also joined by UMD Advisory Council Member, Elizabeth Naumovski, and Wouter Germans. The museum has been named as one of the best Holocaust Memorials in Europe and it is something that must be treasured. In addition to these two meetings, Koloski and Taskova Miteva met with Ambassador of Montenegro to Macedonia, Marija Petrovic.
October 17

Koloski and UMD Dallas Texas Chair and Macedonian Diaspora 40 Under 40 Recipient Dr. Aleksandra Fortier met with long-time UMD friend and supporter John Bitove in Toronto, Canada. They discussed UMD’s educational and charitable programs like the Bitove Scholarship and Birthright Macedonia as well as the 2019 Macedonia 2025 Summit.

August 23

UMD congratulated Houston, Texas Chair Olvera Jankovska on receiving the 2019 Top 30 Influential Woman of Houston Award. Jankovska, who was a recipient of the 2017 U.S. President’s Volunteer Service Award and 2015 UMD Macedonian Diaspora 40 Under 40 Award, is a champion of children’s rights and represents UNICEF as a Global Citizen Fellow.

October 17

Macedonian Canadian Lawyers Association (MCLA) hosted a dinner at Trattoria Fieramosca in Toronto, attended by thirty Canadian lawyers of Macedonian heritage. Introduced by UMD Advisory Council member and MCLA President Chris Paliare, Koloski spoke at the event, highlighting UMD’s global mission to build a more influential Macedonian community and harnessing the power of Diasporas to benefit the homeland. Fortier also attended the event. Koloski thanked the foresight and vision of Chris Paliare, Lou Strezos, Paul Stoyan, George Koroloff, George Vassos, and Jim Nikopoulos in establishing MCLA. “Hopefully MCLA will inspire similar groups to be created in Australia and the United States.” During the dinner, UMD presented three 40 Under 40 Awards to Alexander Karapancev, Jim Nikopoulos, and Peter Simeon.
October 24
Koloski spoke at the 6th Annual Turkish American Youth Congress about outreach, engagement, and building strategic alliances.

October 27
Koloski attended the St. Petka Paraskeva Holiday Service at St. Mary’s Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

November 21
UMD and the Skopje-based ALFA TV signed a Memorandum of Understanding to open a joint TV studio in Washington, D.C. in 2020 to provide Macedonia and the rest of the world with high-quality coverage on developments and pressing issues in North America of relevance to Macedonia and its diaspora. Macedonia needs access to quality information from a Macedonian community perspective.

October 18
UMD held a MAK Mixer networking event in Cleveland, Ohio bringing together about 25 professionals.

October 18
UMD & Generation M held a MAK Mixer networking event in Chicago, Illinois bringing together around 20 professionals.

October 26
Koloski and UMD Board Secretary George Peters attended the 90th Anniversary Gala of St. Clement Ohridski Orthodox Church in Dearborn, Michigan. 90 years ago, Macedonian immigrants who fled wars in the Balkans to Michigan congregated to create their first Orthodox church St. Clement Ohridski named after the Macedonian Saint Clement of Ohrid who founded the first Christian University in Europe. These Macedonian immigrants worked hard to secure the future of their families in their adopted homeland and uphold the Macedonian heritage, values, traditions and cooking and pass on to their children and grandchildren. Koloski expressed hope that one day the communities in Michigan will be able to bridge the divide.
Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

The United Macedonian Diaspora received its GuideStar 2019 Silver Seal of Transparency. UMD works hard to ensure the proper stewardship of our member and donor gifts critical in accomplishing our mission as the leading voice for Macedonians abroad. It is my pleasure, as UMD Treasurer, to submit our 2019 UMD financial report.

Being UMD’s 15th Anniversary in operation, 2019 focused on the core UMD programs: educational advocacy, cultural promotion, recognizing accomplished Macedonians, as well as our strong youth leadership development. UMD’s paramount belief is that we must strengthen our Macedonian heritage and identity, to invest even more in education, in our community, our children, and you!

Around 3,250 volunteer hours went into UMD’s programs thanks to our volunteer leadership and our internship program. We closed the year with a negative change in net assets totaling -$8,613.02. UMD’s membership dues and donations revenue in 2019 amounted to $110,845.82 – a decrease from 2018. Additionally, UMD collected $39,842.60 in special events revenue such as our 15th Anniversary Celebration and 40 under 40 Awards Ceremony, Masquerade, and MALC2019, etc. In 2019, UMD received $2,700 in Funding the Future Endowment gifts and reported earnings of $2,955 from endowment portfolio.

In November 2019, UMD’s Board set up a Development Committee chaired by UMD Advisory Council member Jim Pavle in order to improve and grow fundraising efforts for UMD. Greater funds will allow UMD more freedom to work on the programs that matter to you, our supporters.

Based on member suggestions and the board’s approval, UMD used 40% of the operational budget on educational and philanthropic programs and 32% on cultural programs. Educational and philanthropic programs included: educational advocacy efforts, human rights and religious freedom promotion in Southeast Europe, MALC2019, Generation M, Birthright Macedonia, UMD’s internship program, economic development/mentorship program, hosting briefings, Facebook live events, community outreach, and roundtables at the UMD office and in the U.S. Congress, and more. Cultural programs included: the 14th Annual Masquerade, Mocking of Christ North American film tour, Secret Ingredient film screenings, Ilinden Picnics, cultural festivals, and many other events throughout the year that promoted our wonderful and rich language, food, 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 educational programs for the Macedonian people.

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 charitable organization, tax ID # 20-5182996.

Lidija Stojkoska
UMD Board Member and Treasurer

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”
—Winston Churchill
# Financial Report

## Statement of Activities
2019 Consolidated

### Revenue

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Special Events and Programs</td>
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<td>Membership Dues and Donations</td>
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### Operating Expenses

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<td>Cultural and Other Programs</td>
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<td>Management and Administrative</td>
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<td>Public Relations and Special Events</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$159,301.44</strong></td>
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**Change in Net Assets**

- $8,613.02

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**UMD 2019 Operating Income**

- **74%** Membership Dues & Donations
- **26%** Special Events & Programs

**UMD 2019 Operating Expenses**

- **16%** Public Relations & Special Events
- **40%** Educational & Philanthropic Programs
- **32%** Cultural & Other Programs
- **12%** Management & Administrative
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 Companion 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.

The United Macedonian Diaspora thanks our 2019 Macedonian Companions for their generous contributions to UMD’s programs throughout the year.

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Marilyn Trentos
Lou Vlasho
Mike S. Zafirovski
Vera M. Zlidar
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.

It is Time For Macedonians to Define Their Future and Write the Legacy Our Children Will Honor!

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