

NEWSLETTER

March 2022.



FONDACIJA
HASTOR



SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

The Hastor Foundation can boast of diligent, ambitious, and successful scholarship holders who achieve notable results in the fields of education and science. The Foundation's team consists of young people who contribute to its work, improving it with their knowledge and skills. It is precisely these values and commitment to volunteer engagement within the Hastor Foundation that give scholarship holders the title of the Scholarship Holder of the Month. Read below about the scholarship holder who won the title this month!



Ada Sivac

Versatility, the desire for knowledge and small but significant steps undoubtedly lead to success. Another in a series of examples that ambition and desire for success are, among other things, the reason for positive outcomes is the life of Hastor Foundation scholarship holder Ada Sivac. Our Ada was named Scholarship Holder of the Month, which is only an indication of her success and enthusiasm that accompany her through her education, but also an incentive to continue to achieve success on her path. Ada comes from Sarajevo, where she graduated from the High School of Dental Technology, and is currently in her fourth year of study at the Academy of Fine Arts.

Back in elementary school, Ada showed great interest in the first aid activities. Her ambition and enthusiasm for further upgrading knowledge in this field continued through high school and college, which ultimately resulted in winning the 2019 state competition. Ada's desire for progress, of course, did not stagnate after that success but only encouraged her to keep going. She selflessly shared her experiences and knowledge about the proper provision of first aid with others at many trainings, but also as part of the preparation of teams for future competitions. As a former mentor to Hastor Foundation elementary school scholarship holders, Ada has often focused on this topic, in fact what is at its core - helping others, which is essentially the basic idea and mission of the Hastor Foundation.

The Hastor Foundation provided me with help in the form of protection, squeezing me tightly with an embrace of love. For me, it is a great factor of motivation and support in life. It is a place that allows me to further acquire knowledge and update my potential. I am extremely grateful to the Hastor Foundation for every opportunity as well as motivation and support to put all the ideas and ambitions we have into action.

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH



In addition to first aid, Ada states that astronomy and art were of great importance in her life and in building her personality. As a member of the "Astronomical Society Orion", she was given the opportunity to better study the depths and appearance of the bright spots of the dark cover of the sky. She progressed in the Astronomical Society, so at first, she volunteered, and later she was the educator and head of the children's schools "Galileo's Observatory" and "Da Vinci's Studio". Within the same Society, she participated in various projects such as "Starry Sky Above the Old Town", IASC "Search for Asteroids", "Street Astronomy" (astronomical observations) and "School of Astronomy for Children and Adults".

As a STEM educator at "Orion", she came up with the idea of realizing a scientific workshop for Hastor Foundation elementary school scholarship holders. Students had the opportunity to observe and perform experiments with the aim of acquiring knowledge in a fun, interesting and different way. Ada pointed out that she was extremely happy to participate in this workshop, share knowledge and joy with the scholarship holders.

Thanks to her academic success and the fact that she is the best student of the Academy of Fine Arts in her first year of study, she was awarded a diploma and a gold plaque by the Mayor of the City of Sarajevo.

Ada points out that this was a great success for her as well as a motivation for further work. In addition to sculpting, she is also engaged in painting and graphics, and the transfer to the team for graphic design of the Hastor Foundation enabled our Ada to further improve in this field.



The Hastor Foundation sincerely wishes her to continue to use her versatility, creativity and ingenuity in everything she does in the future. The fundamental mission of all of us is to help others just like our Ada!

Prepared by: Amina Abaspahić
Translated by: Semra Islamović

RAM - RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH

RAM is, by definition, the working memory of the computer. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, "the working memory" represents proactive and diligent young folks who set an example for the society our country needs through their actions. With this section, we'll present several active young Hastor Foundation scholars who, besides volunteering, do amazing things to represent the Foundation in the best spotlight!

Young people represent an extremely important category of the population and are the bearers of changes in society. Therefore, it is necessary to pay adequate attention to their needs, attitudes, and desires, as well as to support the development of youth activism. Volunteering is at the heart of community building, it promotes trust and reciprocity. People are encouraged to be responsible citizens and are provided with an environment in which they can learn about the duties of democratic inclusion in community life. It is extremely important that young people participate as actively as possible in any form of activism and thus contribute to making decisions that are important for their future and improving their position in society. Below you can read the story of the Hastor Foundation scholarship holder who works on youth activism and improving the local community.

Emin Čekro

Emin Čekro comes from Stolac and is the first year of integrated studies at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sarajevo. He found out how to balance university obligations and learning by engaging in writing and photographing both nature and animals, and he turned both segments into a hobby. Even before enrolling in college, the desire to learn and acquire new knowledge and skills in working with animals was his dream.

This dream came true by enrolling at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and in this way, I began a beautiful journey into a vocation that instills hope for a better tomorrow.

He says it is an indescribable feeling to know that one day he will be in the white coat and one of those who save the lives of many animals. From his high school days, through various extracurricular activities, he understood his communication skills and activist spirit which were present in various aspects of Emin's work in the local community.

I have to express my gratitude to ASuBiH (Association of High School Students in Bosnia and Herzegovina), in which I actively participated in all four years of my high school education. Numerous useful projects for our city of Stolac, various trips, and many seminars awakened a desire inside me for even greater progress and encouraged me to contribute to my city in a useful way. I believe that youth activism is the key to the success of a community or city in a broader sense because we have been given the opportunity to turn everything we imagined as a dream into reality through our efforts. Quality work and dedicated commitment to any task in the community as well as abroad are quickly recognized, so you gain additional motivation and desire for even greater progress.



Volunteering is a special segment in Emin's life, especially in the last two years during which he has been a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder.

There is no better feeling than volunteering to contribute to your community, where you have the opportunity to, in various ways, improve everything that's in your power and within your abilities and thus create a positive image of yourself and the city you come from.

RAM - RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH

He says that joining the Hastor Foundation opens a wide range of functions that young people can perform and thus expand the very well-known mission of the Foundation through building young people and their personalities through education and many types of support and motivation.

Thanks to a long period of volunteering at the Hastor Foundation, both with younger scholars and in the local community, and having previous experience in writing texts of various genres, Emin has recently been given the opportunity to try writing articles for the Hastor Foundation's website.



I am very proud of that, especially knowing that great results can be achieved through a quality article. By presenting the young, talented and committed scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, we pay tribute to these young people, giving them a wonderful feeling and an even greater desire for progress. I hope to learn a lot more through the Foundation that offers ideal opportunities and conditions where we young people can show our talents in the right way. The Hastor Foundation supports young people throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and provides ideal conditions for progress in every sense of the word. It is up to us to seize this opportunity, and the very thought of the Hastor Foundation provides a sense of security and support that is certainly never lacking.

Activism is an integral part of society, and Emin believes that young people today have the opportunity, perhaps more than ever, to show and prove that they are capable of working in one community and leading it, full of complex and diligent people who will build a future for which all they hope it will be brighter than the present.



Only with dedicated effort and application of the knowledge we acquire every day do we contribute to our country and we can proudly say that we are the new generation that can lead the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the path that is right for all its citizens.

In the end, Emin sends a message to all Hastor Foundation scholarship holders as well as to all young people:

Never give up on your dreams. Every decline during our schooling and life situations represents two steps to success. Work diligently and persistently and be the best at what you do because one day, after all the adversity, that work will pay off.

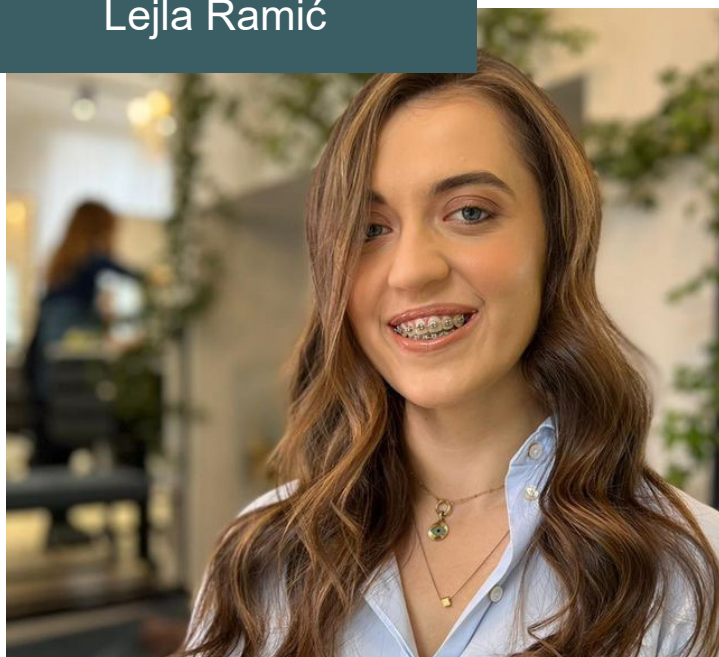
Prepared by: Alek Isaković
Translated by: Vedin Klovo

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Each scholarship holder remains a part of the Hastor Foundation family after graduation and we watch their success with pride, knowing that the Foundation itself is at least partly responsible for it. The alumni club of former scholarship holders abounds in successful young people who are getting better and better every day. This month we bring you the story of former scholarship holder Lejla Ramić, who continued her academic career as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo.

Lejla Ramić was a member of the Hastor Foundation for three years. During that time, she managed to achieve great success and take advantage of all the opportunities that opened up to her on her extremely successful academic path. She graduated from the elementary school Kovačići and the First Gymnasium in Sarajevo, both times as the pride of the generation, with praise from the Teachers' Council of the First Gymnasium for her contribution to the school during her high school days. She upheld her excellent and enviable grade point average at the Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo and is a proud winner of the double Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo with an average of 9.89. She is a doctoral student at the Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo with a grade point average of 10.0. Her current role as a teaching assistant allows her to pass her knowledge on to students, just as she once passed on her knowledge and skills to the younger Hastor Foundation scholarship holders, who she says hold a special place in her heart.

Lejla Ramić



She remembers with nostalgia the time she spent at the Hastor Foundation when she saw volunteering as an opportunity to make a modest contribution to the education and development of the students she volunteered with. She emphasizes that the most distinct moments of her student days were, in fact, those she spent with the younger scholarship holders that she mentored, and she points out that that is what she misses the most.

Monthly meetings with the younger scholarship holders are formulated so that mentors can selflessly pass on their knowledge and are always there for their students to advise them or simply give their opinion on any life situation and opportunity. Accordingly, Lejla points out:



When I remember the monthly meetings, I miss the feeling that permeated me at the time - the feeling of doing something good for my community. Years later, I received confirmation that the meetings I held included quality content, which makes me immensely happy. I was recently contacted by a high school graduate who I mentored about the dilemmas she has regarding choosing a university. It was a pleasure to meet and talk to her after these few years. The most special feeling is that she recognized me as an interlocutor for this major life decision. Through the conversation, we remembered the meetings and I realized what it meant not only to her but also to her parents. She mentioned an action that I organized as a mentor with my friends to make it easier for high school students to go to school by buying school supplies or making a financial contribution. It was one of my last meetings as a scholarship holder at the Foundation.

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Lejla has always given her best through her education, which is also what her results show, but she says that she learned more about work habits, responsibilities, and improved social intelligence at the Foundation, which is very useful for her today in performing business duties. What is immeasurable for Lejla is the network of people she met as a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder and the opportunities she was given and used in the best possible way. Namely, she worked at Prevent Labs, did an internship at ASA Insurance, and worked at ASA Bank.

As a mentor, Lejla tried to use the time spent with the younger students by developing their positive life habits through visits to museums, the Old Orthodox Church, the Synagogue, the Sacred Heart Cathedral, cinema, theatre, nature trips, and a visit to the Pioneer Valley in Sarajevo. Through such activities, she taught them critical thinking, introducing them to the beauty of broader perspectives in life. Volunteering in a bigger city is necessary for such diverse content, but the essential idea of our Lejla was to constructively spend time with the younger students in order for them to learn something new.

Volunteering is of immeasurable importance - you give a part of yourself to the local community, i.e. your time, and it is given back to you multiplied in form of the values you gain, acquaintances, a good feeling because of the way you're using your time and contributing to the community, says Lejla who advises all scholarship holders to work on themselves continually, use the opportunities provided by the Hastor Foundation to their full potential, and to conscientiously volunteer with the younger scholarship holders.



Lejla is currently in the process of writing a doctoral dissertation on indirect taxation and the digital economy. Through her continuous work, she is setting a good example, not only to the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation but also to all young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thanks to the academic vocation I have achieved through hard and persistent work, I live by the motto - education is the choice of the winner! I will always consider myself part of the Hastor family. I am infinitely grateful for that, concludes this month's alumnus, Lejla Ramić.

Prepared by: Aleksandra Đukić
Translated by: Nejra Galijašević

THROUGH THE LENS



Adelisa Puljarga



Berun Agić



Džejlana Nešust



Dženita Hrnjić



Emina Kulenović



Hanna Helać



Kenan Klepić



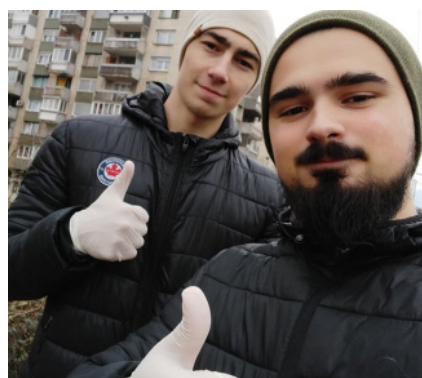
Sevla Kapić



Uzeir Tihak



Ida Palić



Emrah Jamaković i
Imran Agić

INTERESTING FACTS

Unusual customs

Belonging to a certain culture dictates, in its own right, the behavior of an individual or a community. The ways of thinking, behaving, and dressing are the first signs of belonging to different cultures. Although there are customs and types of behavior which are the same in two different cultures; they can bring with themselves different meanings. However, it is important to know that diversity does not diminish the value. In the text below, we recall a few customs which we ourselves may practice and connect with a particular symbolism; yet, we might be unaware that those customs may have totally different meanings for others, and some of them can make us wonder or laugh.

Lip gestures

Gestures which we make with our hands differ across the cultures of the world, but only in a few communities are gestures made with lips. In Nicaragua, it is common to point to something with one's lips, unlike pointing with one's finger, which is characteristic of the rest of the world. A person moves their lips forward or left and right to point to something happening nearby.

A kiss as a sign of greeting

Every country has its own greeting rituals. South American and Roman cultures share the same custom whereby one gives kisses on the cheek to one's friends and relatives as a sign of greeting. As we know, the ritual is part of our own culture; but, unlike us, the French and the Latino Americans do not only kiss the people whom they know, but they rather kiss when they meet each other for the first time. Upon joining a group, a get-together, or a party, the French will approach all the attendees – the ones they know and do not know – greet them and kiss them.

Leaving a tip

In America, the tipping culture is very developed. Unlike the countries where there is no tipping or where only a symbolic amount of money is given (in some exceptional cases, the amount is bigger, if you are particularly satisfied with the service and food); in America, leaving a tip at a restaurant is almost obligatory. A guest is expected to add between 10 and 20 percent of what the final receipt is as a tip. In Bosnian and Herzegovinian culture, the tip is known as "bakšiš", and it is left as a reward for an excellent service at a restaurant.

Pointing a finger

In some countries, pointing one's index finger is regarded as offensive and impolite. Even though members of many cultures would agree that pointing one's finger is not necessarily the politest thing in the world, in Malaysia and Indonesia, this gesture is seen as particularly insulting. Instead of using one's index finger for pointing, the thumb is used, which is regarded as a more appropriate option. In many Asian countries, a finger can be pointed to items only, not people.

Slurping

Most of the societies around the world have certain rules of behavior at the table. In western cultures, eating which is followed by munching and slurping is regarded as impolite; however, slurping while eating noodles in Japan has a totally different meaning. In western countries, one eats noodles by primarily twisting them around the fork, and then putting them in the mouth. Unlike this, in Japan, noodles are simply slurped. Slurping is seen as a sign that you are really enjoying your meal. Some scientists even claim that slurping allows for more air to reach the palate, something which makes the food taste better.

Customs are part of every people's culture. Something which we regard as impolite may be completely opposite to that elsewhere. That reveals to us the fact that we lose prejudices and become more tolerant by familiarizing ourselves with something different. Diversity is wealth; and as we could see, some customs can entertain us, as well as completely change our outlook on the world.

POETRY CORNER

Spring of our hearts

Tram line blistering our feet
Memories are yelling, Trebević can hear them
Every happiness draws a blue sky
And sorrows paint it black with clouds.

People are dragging their feet, walking slowly
It's like that tram is just waiting for them
To whisper them the secret of every century
Hurry to the river, because when you get thirsty – there will
be no water.

As we stare at the cold walls for hours
And hug old pictures
Behind our eyes spring is waking up
And the suns of our dear people are dying.

And we, where are we?
Falling off the track of our own destiny
Thinking the life stops with only one fall
We bandage them by night but open the wounds in the
morning.

Let this spring
From the old dusted memories
Phoenix of happiness to rise
And fly in the blue sky whispering to everyone
"If you don't know where to find love,
Look into your hearts, it must be there."

Nedžma Latić

Translated by: Amelina Čejvan



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