

NEWSLETTER

October 2022



FONDACIJA
HASTOR



NEWS

Signed scholarship contracts with scholarship students for the 2022/2023 school year

The year 2022 is coming to an end. This is the period when most of us summarise and analyse the successes that happened in the previous year, and plan new ones for the future year. Nevertheless, the Hastor Foundation continues to carry out numerous activities even at the very end of the current year. One of them, which is especially valuable and important, is the signing of the scholarship agreement with the Foundation's scholarship students, which took place in October. This way the Hastor Foundation confirms the old saying that a good beginning makes a good ending, and what other ending could be nicer than renewing contracts with the old scholarship holders and awarding the first contracts to the new ones?

On the other hand, the ending of the school year for some scholarship holders means the end of their formal relationship with the Hastor Foundation since they have completed their education. However, the majority of our scholarship holders still strive to maintain the long-standing thread that has strongly tied them to the Hastor Foundation, and their affirmative work does not stop with the end of their scholarship holder status. This indicates that some memories and people are embedded in our hearts forever, and we form an unbreakable bond that is preserved and nurtured for years. This is exactly the bond that the Hastor Foundation strives to build with its scholarship holders year after year.

In addition to all of the above, our Foundation is one of the few that provides scholarships to pupils and students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina for all twelve months of the year, therefore signing contracts for primary and secondary school pupils was a long process that involved going to many cities and towns in our homeland.

We can proudly say that students from 135 municipalities and cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina receive the scholarship of the Hastor Foundation. All these cities have their representatives, hardworking students who will be proud scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation in the coming year.

By signing the scholarship contract, the scholarship holders undertake to be diligent and exemplary students and to strive to develop empathy towards other people in their environment on a daily basis. In this way, they all learn at an early age the importance of helping those who need it, and that is one of the most important goals of the Hastor Foundation. Also, scholarship students will have the opportunity to spend their volunteer hours with their mentors discussing numerous topics that are current and important for today. Therefore, each student will be assigned a mentor who will support him during his activities at the Hastor Foundation, as well as during his education. In this way, the Hastor Foundation created a cycle in which everyone can contribute to one another individually and thus demonstrate and strengthen the philanthropic idea of our Foundation.

It is an indisputable fact that the former scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, who have been a part of it since its foundation in 2006, are today successful young people who continue to contribute to society with their involvement. Through the signed contracts and the philanthropic idea, the Foundation continues to live out its fundamental task - to make education a winner's choice. We hope that the current scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation will also continue to work in that field and that they will be as successful as the numerous young people that the Foundation has produced so far, and who have continued to be our pride during the 16 years of existence and development.

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

Ilhana Tinjak

Volunteering knows no age limit, (un)employment status, gender, academic degree, etc. The motivation for volunteering is found in the volunteers themselves. Volunteering can be done in various fields that are not exclusively related to one's own profession, and volunteering mostly contributes to the volunteers themselves, in the form of personal growth, development of a wide range of skills and active participation in society. The only prerequisite for volunteering is good will. The Hastor Foundation

can boast of hard-working, ambitious and successful scholarship holders who achieve notable results in the field of education and science. The Foundation's team consists of young volunteers who contribute to its work, improving it with their knowledge and skills. It is precisely such values and commitment to volunteer engagement within the Hastor Foundation that earn the scholarship holders the title of Scholarship Holder of the Month. Read below about Ilhana Tinjak, the scholarship holder who won the title this month.

She was born and raised in Sarajevo, and she is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sarajevo. She is an alumna of the First Bosniak Gymnasium, where she graduated as the top student of her generation. She also points out that she graduated from the "Mladen Pozajić" Primary Music School with the same honours, studying the piano. Although we often hear stories about doctors who have always known that medicine would be their calling, Ilhana's story did not begin that way. During her schooling, she showed a preference for natural sciences, especially physics. She says she started studying medicine almost by accident.

I always wanted to understand how the universe works, the whole space-time continuum around me, however, sometime at the end of my high school education, I realized that it is impossible for one person to understand the entire universe. I decided to focus on one "micro-universe" - on what we call the human being.

She says that throughout her education she worked hard, studied, and tried to do her best. That's how she realized that medicine is the ideal profession for her.

I will scientifically understand the human body, and I will be able to share my responsibility and will to work with the world, so everyone will benefit from it, not just me.

Her activist story unfolds and flows through several organizations. Her love for physics was reinforced by her interest in astrophysics and astronomy and by becoming a member of the "Orion" Astronomical Society.



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As a member of the Astronomical Society, I participated in a series of events: we were regular participants in the "Researcher's Night" in Sarajevo, where we introduced all science lovers to the basics of astronomy. I also participated in the international search for asteroids - an interesting event in which participants are educated on the use of the "Astrometrica" program, based on which we record and discover asteroids. I was also a lecturer in the field of biology. We introduced the science side of biology to schoolchildren in the most interesting ways possible - we used microscopes, isolated DNA, and made cell models.

Her volunteering activities also include summer visits to the Home for Children without Parental Care "Bjelave". However, as she says, that was not actually volunteering but, rather, her love for others. She also volunteered at the Sarajevo Film Festival, and in 2019 at the Juventafest – a theatre festival for young people.

Considering that theatre and film are very dear to my heart, the festivals I mentioned actually felt like a vacation, while I simultaneously contributed to my community. The importance of these forms of art must never be diminished in any way because they make the existence of human society more beautiful.

For the second year, she is a member of BoHeMSA – The Bosnian and Herzegovinian Medical Students' Association.

She participated in the Student Congress on Cancer 2020, organized by the Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers and Technologists and the HDKi Student Club. In addition to the above, her participation in the "Race for the cure" stands out. GASOC (Global Anaesthesia, Surgery & Obstetric Collaboration) is a society based in London and an organization that she actively monitors. In 2021, she participated in their Conference 2021: The Story of Global Surgery and points out that she is currently looking forward to this year's conference as well.

GASOC is a non-profit organization that is a source of information for the inclusion of healthcare workers in the so-called global surgery. Considering that one of my dreams is to be a part of the "Doctors Without Borders" story, I always look forward to all the events that GASOC organizes.

Ilhana's successes and achievements are also confirmed by the fact that, during the third year of her studies, she was chosen as the student demonstrator at the Department of Histology and Embryology. Based on that engagement, as part of the Peer2Peer project organized by the BoHeMSA Association, she held an online lecture for second-year students who were taking the mentioned course, in order to explain to them, as a student, the basics of the practical exam in histology.

Two years ago, the Hastor Foundation became an extremely important part of her life and volunteering story.

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During the ten hours a month that we as scholarship holders spend volunteering, I continued to work on what is most important for a human as a social being: helping and contributing to the society in which I live. Originally, I volunteered five hours a month with high school students. It was cathartic to talk about a variety of topics with the students. It is a special feeling to know that, despite all their obligations, a person sits and prepares a topic that can affect the people on the other side of the classroom in different ways. You never know what kind of mark it can leave on the students. It may not be any, but the mere existence of the possibility that someone will expand their knowledge, be inspired to do something new, or perhaps be moved to action is great enough to fill one's heart completely. I am grateful to the Foundation for such an opportunity.

She is currently volunteering at the Foundation in its administration team. She emphasizes how grateful she is to the Foundation for the wonderful people she met in these activities and how the Foundation, through ordinary administrative tasks, actually enables her to improve and acquire new skills.

In addition to volunteering, she emphasizes that she considers it particularly important that she is a part of something beautiful, humane, and useful.

The very realization that a person is part of a story that is bigger than themselves, a project, an organization that strives to open paths for children and young people, gives me incredibly great pride and happiness.

Finally, she sends a message to all readers of the Hastor Foundation Newsletter:

Once upon a time, the physicist Richard Feynman said that we are all, in fact, just particles in an infinite universe. I say that, as particles, we can do little in terms of the infinite, but our every thought, every step forward, every aspiration and desire to improve ourselves and the world around us is what changes our whole world in our limited terms. Let's not give up the importance of good words and good deeds in everyday life, the search for knowledge and curiosity, empathy, love, and science because that is what will save us all.



The Hastor Foundation wishes for Ilhana to continue using her versatility, knowledge, and activist spirit in everything she does in the future, and for all of us to have a fundamental mission of helping others just like she did!

RAM – RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH

Aleksandra Đukić

Rubric of active youth is a place where we introduce the most hard-working scholarship holders of the Foundation every month. Those are the scholarship holders who aim at investing their time and energy into achieving greater goals, improving themselves as well as their community. In the way in which RAM (working memory) is an indispensable part of a computer, the Foundation's work would not be the same without those scholarship holders who, besides volunteering at the Hastor Foundation, work very hard in their own local communities, representing the Hastor Foundation and its mission in the best possible way. RAM is a rubric dedicated to those who actively work on making themselves, as well as their community, better. It is our pleasure to say a few words about one of them each month, and this time, we are writing about Aleksandra Đukić.

Aleksandra Đukić, a fourth-year journalism student at the Faculty of Philosophy of University of Tuzla, comes from a small place called Lopare, located in between the cities of Brčko, Bijeljina and Tuzla. Aleksandra became a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder in February 2021, and has since demonstrated her activism through her efforts and interests, dedicating a great amount of her time to non-formal education. She is a volleyball referee and often participates at volleyball matches which have, as she points out, helped her develop her self-confidence. Aleksandra considers herself very communicative; she loves learning new things and researching about many topics because of her innate curiosity.

For a certain amount of time she volunteered at a kindergarten in Lopare where she gained experience in working with children. Even though this experience is not related to Aleksandra's future profession, she believes that all volunteer activities have their own value. She participated in numerous events organized by the Non-Governmental Organization "Humanity in Action." Last year she participated in the program "Encouraging Democratic Values and Engaged Citizenship among Youth," which included various activities, such as sending a request for freedom of access



to information to government institutions and writing a policy brief. The topic of her policy brief was "Hate Speech Regulation in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina." Aleksandra also highlights a group project "Forward, More Positively" that she worked on with three other girls. This year she participated in Humanity of Action's online international program called "Sarajevo Fellowship." She attended lectures for a few weeks, and then created a project with a fellow participant and scholarship holder Aiša Avdić. We will talk in more detail about their project towards the end of this article.

Besides participating in workshops organized by the Non-Governmental Organization "Humanity in Action," she also took part in numerous workshops, trainings and seminars that weren't related only to journalism, but also politics, corruption, psychology and many other fields of study. Aleksandra proudly told us about creating Gender Equality Council at the University of Tuzla. With her colleagues and TPO Foundation she carried out countless activities during the online campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" last year. Some of the activities for

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this campaign included interviewing members of the newly-founded Council, writing articles about gender-based violence, filming, post-production editing and creating infographics. Furthermore, Aleksandra is part of the editorial team, one of the many teams of volunteers in the Hastor Foundation. This type of volunteer work helps Aleksandra to gain experience that will be especially useful after she completes her studies.



Volunteer work fulfils me emotionally because I know that I'm giving out only a small part of myself, but that is valuable to the people who're receiving it. In my humble opinion, I help the whole Bosnian-Herzegovinian society with my work in civic engagement. I also show how much I care about my country and how I don't want to leave it, but actively take part in creating a better country for the generations that are to come. Volunteer work also helped me become more empathetic toward other people, helped me look beneath the surface, seek for more depth and see the world around me much critically, which will later on help me in my career. I realized the importance of active listening and in general have changed my outlook on the world. Besides this, my communication skills improved significantly, and I almost completely overcame the fear of public speaking, which was unimaginable to me before. I also overcame the fear of stepping out of my comfort zone, which used to be a big obstacle to me. In my eyes that's now hilarious because nowadays I put myself in uncomfortable situations on purpose and embrace situations that I used to avoid. I also noticed that making friends comes easier to me now because I have the opportunity to meet people not only from Bosnia and Herzegovina, but other countries as well.

A radio drama the project that we mentioned several paragraphs before is a result of joined effort of Aleksandra Đukić and Aiša Avdić, two of our scholarship holders. What motivated them to undertake such a project is the fact that the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina is focused exclusively on the experiences of men who had migrated here from the Middle Eastern countries, and the media reports are often full of many prejudices and stereotypes against them. Aleksandra and Aiša noticed that it was almost impossible to find any information on women who migrated to Bosnia and Herzegovina so they decided to make a short research on this topic. They attempted to visit one of the migrant camps, but were unable to, which didn't discourage them. They spoke to individuals who work with migrants and in migrant camps. Once they learned about the many problems that these women living in Bosnia and Herzegovina face on the daily basis when trying to get to the Western European countries, they decided to present the harsh reality of their life through the art of sound.

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"Layla's way" the symbolical title of the radio drama is about a migrant woman who came to an interview in order to receive asylum. Layla's character is fictional, but inspired by real-life events and stories that happened to women on their incredibly difficult journey to a safer and more prosperous place. With the help of actors and BH Radio 1's Drama and Documentary program they succeeded in creating a radio drama that has attracted a considerable amount of attention from the media. Aleksandra and Aiša chose the medium of radio drama on purpose: they wanted to achieve a certain level of intimacy between the listeners and actors, and encourage creativity and imagination in listeners so that they can picture the character of Layla coming to an interview themselves. The premiere was on 25 September on BH Radio 1, and it can be found on the official website of BHRT after the project promotion held on 30 September.

This project and all the other activities that enriched Aleksandra's life lead her to the starting point of many other scholarship holders' volunteer work, and that is the volunteer work in the Hastor Foundation itself. Even though Aleksandra was actively engaged in volunteer work before becoming part of the Hastor family, she highlights the fact that the Foundation made her experience other types of volunteer work and that she has found something special in them.

Volunteer work and civic engagement helped me to see the real picture of today's youth. Many around us characterize young people as passive, but we are, in fact, the ones initiating numerous changes in society. Young people don't need much. They just need the right people on their civic activism journey that will show them the way and motivate them to make positive changes. The Hastor Foundation already plays this role and has been with me for more than a year now. All this time I saw the Hastor Foundation as a necessary support on my academic journey. When many doors had shut, the Hastor Foundation opened its own and helped me, not only financially but also emotionally, and I feel its support every day. I became friends with other young people that share the same or similar interests as me, and I cherish these friendships. I'm convinced that we'll stay friends even after we finish our studies. It's a beautiful feeling to know that I have good people from the Hastor Foundation who encourage me to make my dreams come true.



Every day, Aleksandra finds her motivation for volunteer work by considering that we live only once on this planet and that we also have countless opportunities to make the world a better place. While we're making a positive change, we should be mindful of other people who would benefit from our help. Aleksandra's message to other Hastor Foundation scholarship holders is to work on themselves daily and work on becoming people who'll initiate positive changes in the society. It's crucial to become individuals who won't be crushed by obstacles because they've realized that every obstacle can be overcome.

Our message to you is to follow Aleksandra's footsteps and have in mind that success is inevitable for those striving to make a positive change in their communities.

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Nedžad Hadžiomerović

After completing their studies, Hastor Foundation scholarship holders remain tied to the Foundation like the roots of their tree. Such roots are difficult to break due to the connection that can often be extremely strong, unbreakable and full of connection, which is filled with positive emotions and wonderful memories of the period of schooling that was left behind.

Thus, former scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation cherish their connection with the Foundation, which was often their main support and support in life. One of the former scholarship holders who remembers the Foundation and the days spent there with pride and great joy is Nedžad Hadžiomerović, doctor of veterinary sciences and assistant professor at the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Sarajevo.

Fyodor M. Dostoevsky once said: "Man, don't be proud of your superiority over animals, because they are without sin, while you desecrate the earth with your greatness." It was with this quote that Dostoevsky explained how people make a mistake when they pride themselves on being superior to animals, and animals are in many ways in a deeper and better relationship with nature and respect its laws more consistently. Former scholar Nedžad focused his interest on animals and the study of veterinary medicine, which became his profession and will mark his life. It is the best example of how love for what you do is often the only real and true driver to progress and strive to be better every day in what we do.

The exciting story of Nedžad Hadžiomerović begins when he enrolls in the Secondary Veterinary School in Sarajevo. Realizing that he was very attracted to veterinary medicine as a profession, he decided to enroll in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, where he is currently an assistant professor. In his second year of college, back in 2006, when the Hastor Foundation was created, Nedžad became a scholarship holder, which marked his next four years of study and influenced his life in many ways.

"The support provided by the Foundation is not only financial. It is, above all, a community where education, hard work and work for the benefit of society are valued. Once you become part of that community, you feel great encouragement and encouragement on the way to achieving your goals. Along the way, you learn that you always have something to give to others, which is your time and knowledge", says Nedžad.



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His first volunteering activities were marked by visits to children in returnee settlements in Mededa and Vlasenica. For him, these were all valuable experiences, some unique opportunities for socializing and developing various competencies that undoubtedly benefited him in his everyday and academic life. Today, Nedžad is engaged in scientific research. He enjoys working with students, imparting knowledge and awakening their ambitions, just as the Hastor Foundation once did for him. Nedžad firmly believes that young people should be helped to love knowledge, to realize their potential and opportunities in life. In addition to veterinary anatomy, which he teaches to students, he strives to support young people on the path of personal and professional formation, which is one of the key goals of the Foundation - to guide young people so that in the future they themselves will be able to guide others and show them the way.

"Now, when I look back on my educational path, it is inseparable from the Hastor Foundation. As much as I gained valuable knowledge through formal education, the Foundation gave me the opportunity to acquire life skills through informal programs. All this has a strong formative character and helps in orientation in life", Nedžad believes.

Nedžad has so far written over thirty scientific papers, several of which have been published in the highest ranking international journals. He is the author of three books and the leader of several scientific research projects, and he has been on several study visits for various researches or to give guest lectures (Lanzhou, Barcelona, Milan, Salzburg, Porto, Santiago de Compostela, Samsun). During those visits, Nedžad learned about the latest trends in veterinary medicine and was part of the research he is conducting together with his colleagues at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. He particularly emphasizes the opportunity to teach at renowned conferences such as the "Congress of Veterinary Anatomists" in Zurich.

"I would highly recommend all young people to familiarize themselves with the wide range of activities of the Hastor Foundation, check where they can contribute and how they can incorporate volunteering into their daily schedule. When these habits are adopted at a young age, then volunteering becomes part of the lifestyle and a person in every situation looks for an opportunity to leave a mark in the lives of others. The foundation teaches us the joy of giving and the dignity of receiving", concludes Nedžad.





TRIVIA

Machine Translation

The growth of social communities influences their opinions, standards, and technological progress allows faster and better development. The meeting of different cultures inevitably leads to mutual interweaving, so it's important for cultural communities to understand each other and exchange cultural goods. In this process, communication is very important, and the most commonly used tool that can improve communication is translation. The forms of translating languages have changed throughout history. Firstly, translation was done orally, then with writing techniques and now in the modern age, we have machine translation as a special type of translation.

The use of technology and different styles of communication, especially online communication, made language translation apps more important than ever before. We all had situations in which Google Translate was very useful, whether it was during our days as students or as tourists in foreign countries. This type of translation is called machine translation. It represents the use of different software tools for text or speech translation from one language to another without the interference of a human agent.

This idea was born with the emergence of the first computer systems, and in the beginning meant replacing words from one language to another. For this type of equivalence, a pre-set database is required. With time, programs started translating phrases, and today we have the use of certain grammatical structures. These endeavours required immense knowledge from all levels of natural human languages, as well as knowledge of programming. Therefore, the main purpose of apps such as these is to think and understand, which is also a great challenge since language is, above all, a living matter, primarily meant for the human population.

Translation is a very complex process. It requires knowledge of multiple languages, primarily one's mother tongue. Machine translation, on the other hand, requires a level of higher technological development. Even though they are useful for the translator, these software tools cannot completely replace a human expert. They are used for the automatization of the easier part of translation. On the contrary, everything that requires investigation, mistake correction, and the solution of complex language structures is an impossible process for computer-made software. Some of the most popular programs for translation are Google Translate, Yahoo Babelfish, and Microsoft Bing Translator. Some of the aforementioned programs can identify over a hundred languages for translation. Other popular tools today are apps that translate human voice from one language into another, which can be very helpful for tourists.

LENS

Signing of the agreement

SARAJEVO



BUGOJNO



BUSOVAČA



ČELIĆ



ILIJAŠ



MAGLAJ



TESLIĆ



ZENICA



POETRY CORNER

Leave a mark

I didn't understand right away
what this time
I'm walking
and misguided
to his gait
I was looking for meaning.

I didn't see any compasses
Which leads me to the goal
And a lost wanderer,
And empty,
As long as within yourself
Guidepost
I didn't know
And I saw that the purpose was mine
stay here
And when I'm gone.

I planted the seed
And I wrote it down.
In joy and laughter
Someone else's
The meaning of your walk
I saw it.

At the end of the road
I was sure
That I came here
Just a good one
I leave a mark.

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