

**9th Student Symposium:  
“Research Topics and Intercultural Learning in the International  
Context”**

**(June 14th – June 25th 2019)**

**Day 1 (Friday, June 14th 2019)**

It was Friday, June 14th when we first met American students. They were having a dinner at a Students restaurant and we were invited to join them. Except for them and us, their professors and some of our professors were present. As we walked in to a casual atmosphere, we greeted them all and took a seat. After the dinner, we got the chance to get to know them better as we took them for a walk through Varaždin. The rest of the night was spent hanging out in the city. After that we all went home to get some rest and prepare for the following day.

**Day 2 (Saturday, June 15th 2019.)**

The plan for the next day was to visit the lace museum in Lepoglava and after that the Trakošćan castle. We all got together and then got to the bus which took us to Lepoglava. After a short ride, we got to our first destination - the lace museum. We got in and took a tour. There was a lady in one of the rooms who was making a lace piece and she gave us an opportunity to try it ourselves. We looked around a bit more and then we left the museum. After that we went for a lunch in Lepoglava and after that we got back to the bus that took us to Trakošćan. When we got there we took a tour around the park and the museum itself and after that a tour around the lake by pedal boats. When we got back from pedal boats, we got some rest and waited for the bus to take us back to Varaždin.







### **Day 3 (Sunday, June 16th 2019.)**

American students and professors accompanied by professors from Faculty of Organization and Informatics - prof. Damir Vučić, doc.dr.sc. Mario Konecki, dr.sc. Bogdan Okreša Đurić and few volunteers and students from Faculty of Organization and Informatics - visited the Martin na Muri in the morning hours. American guests spent the day in the thermal spas, where they had the opportunity to get to know each other through sport, a pleasant friendly atmosphere and lunch. In Varaždin they returned in the afternoon that the guests used for rest from the active day.





#### **Day 4 (Monday, June 17th 2019.)**

On Monday June 17, 2019, the 9th Research Symposium on Intercultural Learning was officially opened. Leader of official opening symposium, as well as the entire symposium was assoc.prof.dr. sc. Violeta Vidaček-Hain. The official speech was held by the Dean of the Faculty of Organization and Informatics Varaždin - Prof. dr. sc. Neven Vrčec and vice Dean – assoc.prof.dr.sc. Nina Begičević Ređep. Followed by a special presentation of each of the visiting faculties. From University of Cincinnati, Ohio, accompanied by professors Valdae Bronston and Cheri Westmoreland FOI also hosted students Saira Matthews, Alvin Mantey and Sabrina Soli. From University Central Florida, Orlando (Florida) FOI hosted students Bianca Pizzaro Vazquez, Darwins Olcima and Chance Brewer, accompanied by director of Academic Advancement Program ("AAP") Michael Aldarondo Jeffrey. Further, Dr. Susan Dvorak McMahon from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, was accompanied by students Mandy Bryant, Ashley Sanchez and Katie McMahon. At the very end of the University of South Carolina from Columbia, in the US state of South Carolina, FOI hosted professor Elliot Vittes. After the official presentation and introduction, lectures began.

Doc. dr. sc. Irena Kedmenec and Doc. dr. sc. Kristina Detelj held a lecture on social entrepreneurship, which was also an introduction to the social enterprise "Humana Nova" from Čakovec. A visit to the social enterprise "Humana Nova" followed after lunch. After the organized visit was followed by a tour of the town of Čakovec and socializing in the very center of the city.





### **Day 5 (Tuesday, June 18th 2019)**

Second day of the Symposium started with a workshop “Strategic Planning And Digital Transformation” presented by FOI employees assoc.prof.dr.sc. Katarine Tomičić-Pupek, doc.dr.sc Martine Tomičić Furjan, doc.dr.sc. Igora Pihira i assoc.prof.dr.sc. Marine Klačmer Čalopa. US Students met with a Strategic planning process and saw how technology impacts strategic planning and digital transformation. During workshop, students had to implement digital transformation on existing product/service to make it better, efficient and technologically available.

Later, it was time for our first presentation. Students Mandy Bryant, Ashley Sanchez and Katie McMahon and dr. Susan Dvorak McMahon from DePaul University from Chicago, Illinois presented their researches. There were various topics and all students and professor had quality and comprehensive research. In the afternoon we headed to Zagreb where we were hosted by FOI Alumni Alen Delić and Martina Kušer Vanjek. Together, we introduced the US students with Zagreb. We visited a lot of sights, such as Ban Jelačić Square, Zrinjevac Park, Croatian National Theater, Zagreb Cathedral and much more. Also, the professors visited the

Office for International Cooperation of the University of Zagreb where they were hosted by Renata Hranjec.





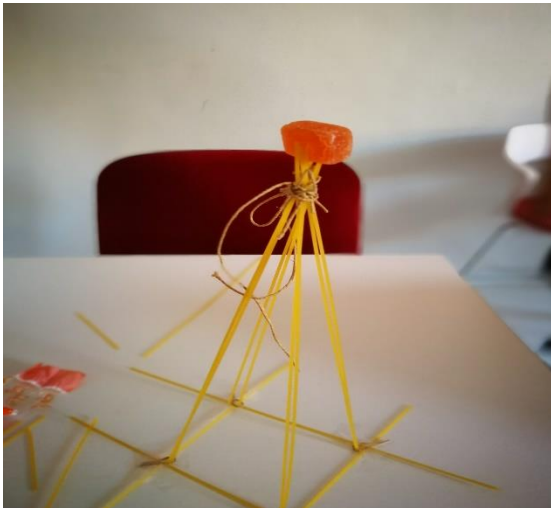




### **Day 6 (Wednesday, June 19th 2019.)**

In the morning hours, a student from the University of Cincinnati Ohio Saira Matthews, director of AAP Michael Aldarondo Jeffries from the University of Central Florida, professor Elliot Vittes from South Carolina, dr. Susan Dvorak McMahon of DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, and assoc.prof.dr.sc. Violeta Vidaček- Hainš from the Faculty of Organization and Informatics performed at Vekerica's show on VTV.

Third day of simposium started with lecturing dr.sc. Nikola Kadoić and assoc.prof.dr.sc. Nina Begičević Ređep on the topic How to make right decision?. After lecture students had a short workshop in which they had to make a spaghetti building, using only scissors, ropes and spatula for construction assistance. After short break professors Valda Bronston and Cheri Westmoreland from University of Cincinnati, Ohio had their presentations. Alvin Mantey, Saira Matthews and Sabrina Solis from University of Cincinnati, Ohio also held presentations about their research. Subsequently, there were presentations by director of AAP Michael Aldarondo Jeffries from University of Central Florida and Professor Elliot Vittes from the University of South Carolina. After lunch, students visited kindergarten „Varaždin“ where they spent time playing with children. In the evening, students visited the „Center of Traditional Culture“ where they could see traditional folk costumes and folk dance.





### **Day 7 (Thursday, June 20th 2019.)**

The day started with the presentation of the Master's program students from the FOI of the Economic Entrepreneurship in the Student House, and the topics were the Plitvica lakes - ICT Integration within UNESCO (Nikolina Landripet), the Cultural Heritage of Varaždin (Karlo Strahija) and the History of Zagreb (Karla Češković).

After a short pause has started the second part of the daily program - an intercultural game called Graduate Pursuit Mystery Cards designed by YMCA Toronto. American and Croatian students and professors were formed into four-player teams. The game is played in a way that the players need to throw a dice, and depending on the number they get, can move on the board. With each throw, player pulls out a card with instructions for the next move. There are two types of cards: "Congratulations" (a positive case for a well-done job) and "Oh no!" (A

negative outcome indicating that a player in the role of a student has made the wrong move in a study life). The goal of the game is to reach the finish first and graduate.

Afternoon hours were reserved for team building. American and Croatian students went to visit Varaždin, and afterwards to the meadow in Old Town where they played various games such as badminton, volleyball, and frisbee. The evening was rounded off by going to dinner.







### **Day 8 (Friday, June 21th 2019.)**

Last day of the Symposium was reserved for research presentation of students from University of Central Florida (UCF). Students Darwins Olcima, Chance Brewer and Bianca Pizzaro Vasquez brought up interesting and quality researches on which they were working with their mentors. After that, dr.sc. Boris Tomaš and Erasmus student William Thomas introduced us their presentations on topic “Why IOT? Because we can (Internet of Things)”. Later, dr.sc. Mladen Koncecki had an workshop “How Computers Play Drums?” where he connected informatics and music lessons.

After lunch, we were ready for our Skype meeting with professor Andreia Carita from University of Applied Science from Amsterdam. She introduced US students to a project on which we were working for a past few months. Then, Master’s students of Economics of entrepreneurship together with Erasmus students from France and students from Amsterdam presented their virtual project within course Negotiating in International Environment. With the end of the Symposium, assoc.prof.dr.sc. Violeta Vidaček-Hainš gave certificate of participation to all the participants of 9<sup>th</sup> Student Symposium: Research Topics and Intercultural Learning, held at Faculty of Organization and Informatics.





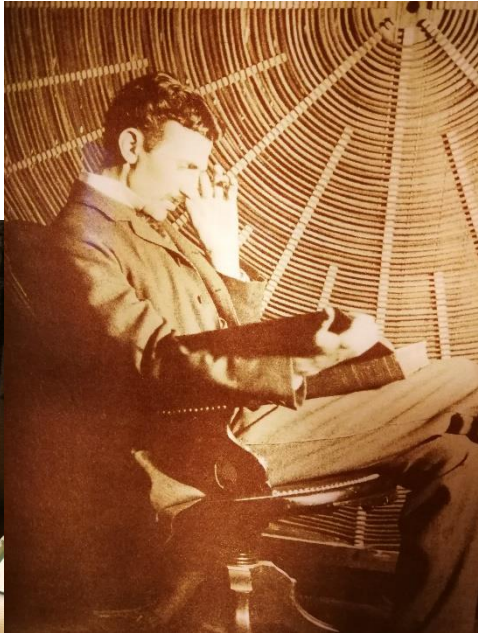
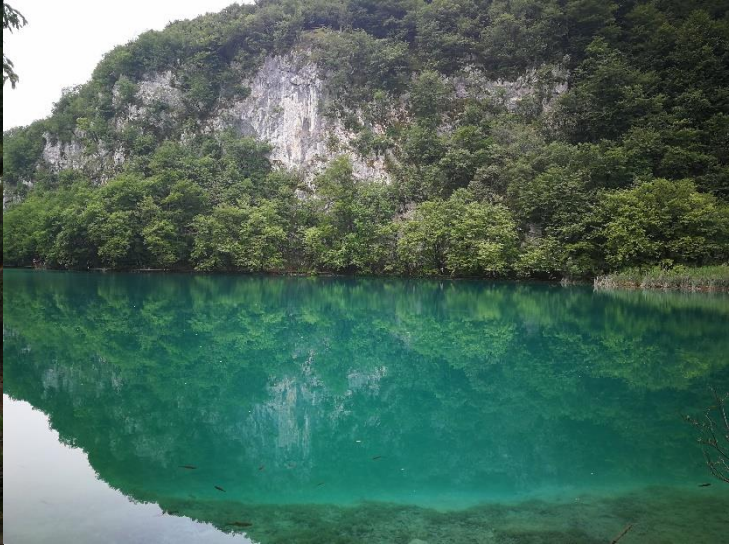




### **Day 9 (Saturday, June 22th 2019)**

During the early hours of the morning, students and professors headed for the National Park Plitvice Lakes where they spent the whole day. After visiting the Plitvice Lakes, they went to visit the Memorial Center of Nikola Tesla, where various Tesla inventions were exhibited at his house. In the evening, students and professors arrived in Zadar where they settled in a nice boarding house.

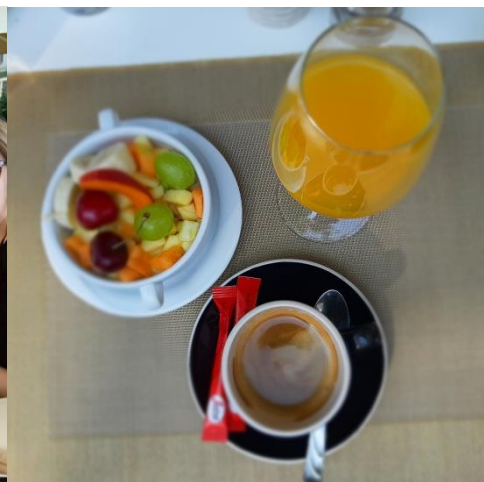






### Day 10 (Sunday, June 23th 2019.)

The day started with a breakfast with which the students were very satisfied. Afterwards students went to the hotel to prepare for a short tour of the city and go to the beach. All afternoon students spent in the sightseeing Zadar where they exchanged experiences, experiences of the symposium, and at the same time enjoyed the beautiful pleasant time. After the sightseeing, the students went to dinner and returned to their rooms where they spent the rest of the evening in a pleasant atmosphere.



## Day 11 (Monday, June 24th 2019)

The third day in Zadar was organized for a visit to the University of Zadar. Maja Kolega, the Head of the International relations Office Maja Kolega welcomed us and held a short presentation about the University of Zadar. After that, one of the students spent us briefly at the faculty. After visiting the faculty, he followed a tour of Zadar and lunch. Afternoon students had free time to rest and prepare for the following day.





**Day 12 (Tuesday, June 25th 2019.)**

The last day of the 9th Student Symposium went in a pleasant atmosphere. The students check-out from the hotel in the morning, went to breakfast and headed to the bus. Students and professors arrived in Zagreb in the afternoon and helped American students and professors to check-in to the hotel and went for lunch. At the very end they said their goodbyes and headed back to their homes, with the wish that friendship will continue.



For realization of this 9th Student Symposium and on the opportunity to participate in such an exceptional event special thanks to:

- TRIO McNair Program DePaul University Chicago, IL, University Central Florida, Orlando, FL, University of Cincinnati, OH, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA
- Management Board, employees, students and volunteers Faculty of Organization and Informatics Varaždin
- International Relations UNIZG and FOI
- Varaždin County
- City of Varaždin
- Student Union University of Zagreb and FOI
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Karlo Strahija

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