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Kosovo and the United States of America share a key friendship and bond with one another. Following the Kosovo War, the American University in Kosovo Foundation (AUKF) was established in the summer of 2002 with the single purpose of developing a private nonprofit university based on the American model of higher education in partnership with a university in the United States. That partner, the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), proposed a program for Kosovo that was consistent with the mission of RIT: to provide technology-based educational programs for lifelong career development. As Kosovo was rebuilding after a war, preparing students for careers and lifelong learning was deemed critical.

As a result, the American University of Kosovo (A.U.K) opened its doors on October 6, 2003 in a temporary facility to 57 students. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton provided one of the very first lectures at the university and offered encouraging words of wisdom: “I can promise you that these walls may not be as good as you want them to be, but the education will be!” And the education as well as the facilities have only continued to improve over the years. In 2007, the university relocated to its present campus near Germia Park in Prishtina. With a recent name change to RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), the university is regarded as one of the finest higher educational institutions in the region. The institution presently serves approximately 500 undergraduate students, and over 1000 additional students annually enroll in shortterm non-credit classes often tailored to local work-force demands. With 95% of graduates employed after completing their degrees, student success rate is deemed exceptional. Earlier this year RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) celebrated its 15th Anniversary and remains the only Kosovo institution of higher education awarding American degrees offered wholly in the English language Additionally, as a multi-ethnic institution enrolling students from over 20 countries, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) provides a high quality education to students from Kosovo and beyond.

At the undergraduate level, the degree program offered at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) is the RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Arts and Science (BSc). RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) offers this American degree with innovation, adaptability and creative pathways that prepare students with professional and life skills for a global world. Students have the opportunity to create their undergraduate programs from two or more professional areas of study with a strong foundation in the social sciences, through RIT’s School of Individualized Study.

In Kosovo, these professional areas of study are Management and Entrepreneurship, Economics and Statistics, Public Policy and Governance, Graphic Design and Multimedia, Web and Mobile Computing (IT), Energy Policy Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, and the Individualized Study that allows students to develop a unique professional pathway. Currently a 15 member Board of Trustees that hails from around the globe governs RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) and is responsible for developing and approving the institution’s mission, vision, strategic goals and objectives, annual budget, and for establishing policies related to programs and services. The Board appoints a President with responsibilities for administration of college programs and activities and the organization as a whole.
LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT

Many universities claim to change lives of students, but we here at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) are not only claiming to change lives, we are proud to showcase how our university is making a significant contribution to Kosovo, the Balkan region, and across the globe.

This Report highlights our greatest accomplishments in FY 18. I am proud of these many achievements garnered by the university especially those obtained by our faculty, staff, and students.

The Strategic Plan FY 2018- FY 2022 set the stage for key priorities that resulted in many achievements, far more than what can be highlighted here. The Plan has enhanced our performance and helped us to take advantage of the opportunities presented by a continuously changing global marketplace for higher education, research, training, and economic development.

Thank you for taking the time to review our progress highlighted in the pages ahead. I am positive you will find that we are a University that is committed to our students. The actions we have taken this year have helped to further distinguish RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) as the leading and highest quality institution in this country and one that is renowned for its outstanding academic programs, scholarship, growing research, and global outreach.

And with a growing international network of partners and supporters, our impact is being felt all over the world. To be part of our next chapter, visit: www.kosovo.rit.edu.

Thank you for taking the time to explore our university!
All the best to you from RIT Kosovo (A.U.K).

Sincerely yours,

Sharon Y. Hart
PRESIDENT
Board of Trustees

* Richard S. Lukaj, Chair
  Ronald Cami, Vice-chair
  Jill Adler
  Nancy Y. Bekavac
  Cafo Boga
  Edmond Coku
  Bersant Disha
  Jehona Gjurgjeala
* Laura Kryeziu
  Driton Mezini
  James Myers
  Louis Sell
  Ardi Shita
* Michael Zubkoff

* Term ended FY2018
A MESSAGE FROM
THE CHAIRMAN

It is my pleasure to present to you the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Annual Report for FY18.
Since 2003 I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Trustees of this great institution. As a result, I have witnessed first-hand the growth and development of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). Originally established as the American University in Kosovo, this institution remains affiliated with one of the finest U.S. higher educational institutions Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) offering their programs and degrees to our students. This affiliation has enabled this institution to meet the evolving educational needs of Kosovo and neighboring countries and to tackle the economic and social challenges of the 21st century. All of this is well documented throughout this Report.

At this time I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and express my sincere gratitude to our past Board chair, Mr. Richard Lukaj. Rich stepped down as chair in May of this year. He was one of the early founders of the university and has given wonderful service throughout the years via his passion, heartfelt dedication and generous financial support. We are all fortunate that Rich will remain involved in different ways with our university and Kosovo generally continuing to bring his talents and resources to benefit our students and advance the mission of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). In addition, I would also like to recognize our other board members whose term ended this fiscal year: Michael Zubkoff and Laura Kryeziu.

Most importantly, I want to thank the entire RIT Kosovo community of faculty, staff and students for their cooperation and commitment to perfecting an institution that applies core American principles and practices that contributes to the development of Kosovo and its surrounding countries. The accomplishments outlined in this Report reflect the overall combined success of our employees and students.
My heartfelt congratulations to all involved in the accomplishments outlined in the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Annual Report.

Yours truly,

Ron Cami
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MISSION

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) will deliver an outstanding American education for students from Kosovo and the world through innovative curricular, experiential, and research programs in a student-centered culture. Our students acquire expertise, knowledge, and values that prepare them to contribute to the global society.
FACTS

€4 Million in Scholarship funding awarded to students since 2003

Ranked #1 in student retention among RIT campuses worldwide

38.3% increase in international student enrollments from FY17 to FY18

1380 of Alumni worldwide

VISION

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) will be a leading international university whose excellence in academic programs, educational programs, and research best supports the professional achievement and personal growth of its students and the advancement of society in Kosovo, the region, and the world.

63% of Graduates who pursued Master’s studies were awarded scholarships

95% of Alumni are employed

26 students average classroom size

67% of students are offered jobs during internship

1:16 Faculty to student Ratio
INTERNATIONAL BALKAN UNIVERSITY AND RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K) STUDENT DEBATE

IBU and RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) students gathered in Skopje to debate. Teams of five from both universities shared their arguments while debating topics “Relation between Macedonia and Kosovo” and “Western Balkan Integration in EU.”

STUDENT ADEA ADEMI WINS AWARD FOR BEST POSTER DESIGN FOR HER DESIGN REPRESENTING QUALITY EDUCATION IN KOSOVO

Adea Ademi, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) student placed first at Europe Day competition organized by the EU Office in Kosovo. The Head of Political Division, Riccardo Serri presented the award to Adea for her poster with the attached mantra “Educated people don’t settle for underdevelopment.”

KOSOVO YOUTH FEST

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) students organized the first ever “Kosovo Youth Fest”. The festival brought together youth from different ethnic communities in Kosovo to learn and experience each other’s cultures and traditions through folklore, music, food and drinks.

“RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) students have shown again their capacity to compete with the best US and European students and gain experience that will help them to master the challenges of global citizenship facing Kosovo in the 21st century.”

- Professor Mark Baskin
CHANGING THE STATISTICS - GIRLS IN INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

This year’s Girls in Information & Communications Technology (ICT) conference served as a reminder that every girl and woman have the power to change the statistics.

NOTHING BUT DEMOCRACY: GOVERNING PARIS IN THE 21ST CENTURY: DEPUTY MAYOR OF PARIS SPEAKS AT RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K)

Deputy Mayor of Paris Christophe Girard discussed with students about the importance of engagement in a democratic public life. He spoke with students about a mandate for public service to enhance the quality of life in the communities where we live.

CROATIAN AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES STUDENTS ON EU ACCESSION*

Croatian Ambassador in Kosovo, Marija Kapetanović visited campus to speak about the opportunities and challenges of the Croatian Government since joining the EU. She focused both on external and internal challenges of the EU accession process.

MINISTRY OF INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP, MINISTER BEQAJ DISCUSSES KOSOVO’S DIGITAL FUTURE

Minister Besim Beqaj discussed plans and strategies the Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship plans to take to prepare for the economic future of Kosovo in the prism of the support and advancement of the digital economy.

“Our youth is moving faster than institutions, into the global trends of economy and technology.”
- said Minister Beqaj

RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K) WINS AWARD AT MODEL EU IN BRUSSELS

RIT Kosovo (A. U. K.) sophomore, Leonita Krasniqi was awarded the ‘Most Persistent Delegate’ among 120 delegates from 20 US and European universities during a Model EU simulation hosted by Vesalius College, Brussels, Belgium. Playing the role of Finance Minister Efkleidis Tsakalotos of the Hellenic Republic of Greece, Leonita worked to achieve debt relief and restructuring for her Government against the initial opposition of Germany and other creditor governments.

“SCAFFICIENCY” APP

During Kosovo Sustainable Development Week, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) students won 1st place in an open competition with other university teams in Kosovo. Students introduced an innovative, digital approach to energy efficiency through a mobile app called “Scanfficiency” that allows users to scan home appliances to see their efficiency rating.
Ms. Yllza Hoti, Most Distinguished Student of the Generation

Ms. Yllza Hoti was honored with the “Most Distinguished Student of the Generation” award. Yllza was also a recipient of the “Dr. Ferid Murad Scholarship” and named “Best Generation Fellow.”

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND FORMER SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER OF NATO, GENERAL WESLEY K. CLARK.

14th Commencement Ceremony

2018 marked RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)’s 14th Commencement Ceremony. 115 graduates of Science degree in Applied Arts and Science crossed the stage as their families, friends and loved ones looked on.

FINAL FARWELL

Mr. Richard Lukaj, Chairman of the Board of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) announced his departure after 15 years. Longtime member of the Board, Mr. Ronald Cami is succeeding Mr. Lukaj as the Board’s next chairman.
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE GLOBAL WORKFORCE

OUR PLANS AND PRIORITIES

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Board Members approved a five-year strategic plan that solidifies our roadmap for the future to continue driving the University forward as the leading institution of higher education in Kosovo and the region. The core of the strategic plan is to deliver the highest quality academic curricula taught by first rate professors using cutting edge methods in a physical and cultural environment conducive for young people to grow. While making the University a more rewarding and attractive experience for all students but particularly students of which the intent of this University was founded for; those growing up in modest to poor circumstances in Kosovo but show promise academically and have the courage and ambition to grow.
NEW CONCENTRATIONS EXPANDING OUR OFFERINGS

ENERGY POLICY
Energy Policy Studies gives students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge in energy, environment, and natural resource management.

INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY
Individualized Study aims to accommodate the needs of modern day students and/or the working adult by offering flexible, individualized programs.

MANAGEMENT/ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Management & Entrepreneurship prepares students for management and specialist careers in a variety of enterprises and organizations.

PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES
Peace and Conflict Studies teaches the tools to analyze the socioeconomic, psychological and political dynamics of violent conflict and its transformation.

WEB & MOBILE DEVELOPMENT
Web & Mobile Computing (IT) emphasizes the basics of both applied informatics and web development. The web has become a ubiquitous communication medium, making knowledge of how the web works and how to effectively develop dynamic websites.
THE NINTH ANNUAL PEACE & CONFLICT SUMMER PROGRAM

The ninth annual RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Peace and Conflict Summer Program successfully concluded on July 27 with a total of 45 participants from the region and from a variety of US universities. Their eight day regional study covered: Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Macedonia.

In Kruje, Albania, participants learned about the 15th century Albanian revolt against the Ottoman Empire led by Skenderbej (Gjergj Kastrioti) and familiarized themselves with the region’s Muslim Bektashi heritage before they traveled.

In Dubrovnik, Croatia, distinguished Yale University of Zagreb historian Dr. Ivo Banac lectured on Dubrovnik’s history at RIT Croatia’s campus that prepared them for tours through the city’s museums and walls that showed the Adriatic legacy of Balkan governance.

In Mostar, the participants visited the 16th century Ottoman bridge, one of the most exemplary pieces of Islamic architecture in the Balkans, which was destroyed during fighting in 1993 and repaired at the beginning of this century. The head of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) spoke to the group of remaining challenges in healing Mostar’s wartime wounds.

In Sarajevo they learned about efforts at post-conflict reconstruction from senior officials at the Office of the High Representative and the OSCE and visited museums demonstrating the city’s complex Ottoman, Habsburg, Yugoslav and postsocialist realities and wandered through Baščaršija, the Balkans’ most extensive traditional market place.

In Srebrenica, participants toured the scene of the most significant European war crime since World War II, spoke with a survivor of the massacre and explored the museum that showed in detail the elements surrounding this horrible massacre.

In Belgrade, Serbia, participants met with an award-winning artist, Vladimir Miladinovic, whose work documents the mundane details of war crimes in Bosnia, Kosovo and further outside the Balkans that provide a key to the banality of organizing evil and to the tragedy of individual human loss. Their meeting with the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, which is one of a network of regional youth groups, demonstrated how an important segment of the population continues to fight for a decent, democratic future.
The academic portion of the program from July 2-27, enabled participants to study with distinguished faculty including former principle deputy of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General (PDSRSG) for Kosovo Jock Covey; former Chief of Staff for the UN Special Representative for Kosovo Colonel Michael Hess; former American diplomat, Dayton Conference participant, and author Professor Louis Sell; former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Leonard Hawley; Westminster University (London) expert on conflict prevention Professor Aidan Hehir; and distinguished student of negotiation and terrorism Professor Karen Heste of the University of Denver.

A one-day workshop on July 18 brought 20 Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Cadets and six KSF officers to engage in a civil-military planning exercise that was placed in mid-July 1999, one month after the conclusion of NATO bombing and the beginning of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Under the guidance of faculty who served in senior positions in that mission in 1999, participants addressed: security, civil administration, organized crime, humanitarian relief, inter-ethnic conflict, economic development and other urgent issues facing UNMIK at the time. The workshop concluded with briefings to former PDSRSG Jock Covey on the near-term challenges and mission objectives. KSF Major Berat Shala observed that “the workshop provided an important opportunity for the Cadets and civilian participants to work in realistic conditions.”

Program Director Professor Mark Baskin concluded that the 2018 program demonstrated that “the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)’s program in peace and conflict studies provides students and faculty a unique opportunity to go beneath the surface of daily events to understand the multiple perspectives of all regional and international parties to the tragedy of armed conflict in the contemporary world. Each year we succeed in strengthening bridges of understanding among all local, regional and global parties to the conflict.”

“The workshop provided an important opportunity for the Cadets and civilian participants to work in realistic conditions.”
- Berat Shala, KSF Major
RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Training and Development Institute is committed to help advance Kosovar society into a competitive society, through professional development of individuals, advancement of learning methods and contents, business support, linking of university expertise with the business community and certification of skills with international recognized standards. Most notable public training programs offered by TDI during the 2017/2018 are in the IT related courses and Project Management courses. TDI strives to develop and bring the most needed standardized training and certification programs needed in the market.

This year TDI became an accredited training provider for the EC Council, the world’s largest cyber security technical certification body. Two new courses in cyber security were added to TDI’s IT portfolio: Certified Ethical Hacker and Cyber Security Operations. Across programs and projects TDI has trained 1,535 candidates during the academic year 2017/2018 and it has served more than 50 companies and organizations.

Some of the companies that TDI has served in human capacity development include: Finance institutions such as ProCredit, Raiffeisen, BKT, TEB, KEP, Moneta, IUTE, Quipu, etc; companies like IPKO Telecommunication, Kujtesa, Kosbit, Asgeto, Uje Rugove, Recura, etc. and institutions like World Bank, Kosovo Prosecution Council, Ministry of European Integration, ATK, Swisscontact in Albania, etc.
Training and Development Institute delivered several donor funded Human Capacity Development Initiative tackling youth employment and workforce development. Most notable project included:

**USAID TLP IPCS**

For the fourth year in a row, during 2017/2018 the program has trained 610 trainees in total, out of which 216 students in American University Preparatory Program and 394 Civil Servants in Public Policy Development and Leadership. During this year the PPDL Program got accredited from the National Qualifications Authority. The participants who successfully complete the PPDL program shall receive the title “Professionals/Specialists of Policy Administration” ISCED level V; receiving 13 VET credits.

**WOW**

Women in Online Work was a project supported by Swiss Development Cooperation through Helvetas Intercooperation and implemented under the supervision of the Ministry of Economic Development which aims to strengthen women's economic role and enhance employment. While focusing on the opportunity for women to work online over distance we trained 100 young girls in Mitrovica and Podujeve and got them working in online working platforms, such as UpWorks, Com; Freelancer, Fiver, etc.

**YCIP**

Youth Career IT Pathway was designed to train 200 unemployed or underemployed youth, aged 18-29, from different ethnic backgrounds, with pre-university level education, to equip them with the necessary soft and technical skills to partake in the local job market and compete in the global digital economy through online work. The project was funded by the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, grants were managed by KCSF and delivered in Peja, Ferizaj and Pristina.

Certified Ethical Hacker V10 - CEH is the most desired information security training program in the industry. It provides the candidates with advanced hacking tools & techniques used by hackers and security professionals. The course aimed to put candidates into the “Hackers Mindset” and teach them how to think like a hacker, in order to defend future attacks. The course prepares the students for EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker exam 312-50.
TESTIMONIALS

**Obiliq, Kosovo - Class of 2022 - Recipient of Zagragja & Associates Scholarship**
I am very grateful to have been selected as one of the recipients of the ‘Zagragja and Associates’ scholarship, because it is this scholarship that allowed me to begin my undergraduate studies here at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). It is an honor for me to know that I am now part of this institution, because the academic and career opportunities that are offered here are endless and I’m sure that they will help me grow personally and professionally. Knowing that the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) degree is internationally recognized, I’m very hopeful that my education will open many doors for me to pursue my future goals and to create a successful career, like the one I’ve always imagined.

**Istog, Kosovo - Class of 2016 - Recipient of USKDOM Scholarship**
Attending my undergraduate studies at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) was the best decision I ever made. Coming from a very small town in Kosovo, I had little knowledge that pursuing studies at a prestigious university would pave the way for countless opportunities in the future. After graduating, I had the privilege to intern for international organizations such as UNDP Kosovo and MCC. Recently, I returned from Berlin, where I was one of the two recipients of the International Parliamentary Scholarship of the German Bundestag, representing Kosovo. I have now returned to Kosovo and I am currently working as an International Project Assistant at Heimerer College. I am truly convinced that none of the above-listed unforgettable experiences would have been possible had I not chosen RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) as my destination for undergraduate studies. But most importantly, having the chance to begin studies at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) would also be impossible if it wasn’t for the support that I received from the USKDOM scholarship.

**Ulcinj, Montenegro - Class of 2020 - Recipient of Lukaj Foundation Scholarship**
Growing up in a small town has not only posed financial and academic challenges for me, but has also helped me realize the value of a college education. With the financial support of the Lukaj Foundation, I am able to attend RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) and pursue my education. Looking back at the beginning of my academic journey I can say with full conviction that my decision to join RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) was highly worthy – because of this decision I’ve had the chance to meet numerous hardworking students, as well as highly qualified and helpful professors. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals the same way the Lukaj Foundation scholarship has helped me during these years at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K).

**Istog, Kosovo - Class of 2017 - Recipient of USKDOM Scholarship**
Thanks to the USKDOM scholarship, I was able to concentrate fully on my academic studies and take advantage of many opportunities that it offers. My experience at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) opened many doors and gave me the opportunity to meet incredible people from different backgrounds and cultures. The culmination of my tenure at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) was a year abroad, where I was able to experience the subtle differences and striking similarities between the two campuses. It was through RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) that I was able to extend my year abroad to two years, under the OPT visa program and work as a licensed financial representative at one of the oldest and biggest wealth management firms in the country: Northwestern Mutual. Living in a city as vibrant and cosmopolitan as New York City has remained one of the best experiences of my life. Upon my return home, I started working for a major Kosovo consultancy firm. All of these successes I can confidently attribute to RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) and the USKDOM scholarship that enabled me to stay there.
Honors Society research represents among the highest academic achievements of undergraduate students at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). Students invited into the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Honors Society are required to have at least a cumulative GPA of 3.8 and are required to conduct a one-year capstone project. In 2017/2018, there were five Honors students who met the eligibility criteria to become members.

Ms. Hoti’s research project explored the implications of outsourcing to the service provider countries. While technology has helped make international markets more interconnected than ever, it has also aided businesses in reducing their costs, mainly through offshore outsourcing. Her report analyzed the positive impact such businesses have on developing countries.

Mr. Maxhuni’s study attempted to provide a comprehensive overview of Kosovo’s contemporary budgetary practices and underpin some of its weaknesses. It discussed both legislative and executive viewpoints of the process and proposed recommendations which would improve the budgeting process in terms of quality, transparency, and efficiency.

Ms. Qorri’s paper analyzed voting behavior in Kosovo. It compared the rational and irrational factors that compete with one another during voting decisions and that ideology, sexual identity, gender bias, emotions and family play important roles affecting voting behavior.

Ms. Gashi’s paper analyzed the State Matura Exam. Her research identified issues with the administration process of the test, whereby it identified organized cheating as one of the most problematic issues. The study explored various methods of cheating to find whether the State Matura Exam fulfilled the criteria needed to be considered a standardized test.

Ms. Zeka’s report offered an in-depth analysis of Kosovo’s hotel industry. It evaluated Kosovo’s capacity to handle the tourism industry and compared with how it differs from the industry in Macedonia.
XHEVAHIR KOLGJINI

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)’s Fine Arts Lecturer, Xhevahir Kolgjini, recently exhibited some of his artwork from the series “Intertwined Polarities” in the heart of the contemporary art world, Ceres Gallery, Chelsea, NYC during the 2018 summer season. Last autumn he was selected as a finalist in the Juried Exhibition SHOW YOUR WORLD 2017: RE:ARTISTE, based on his submission of another of his pieces from the same series. This piece was on display at the Gallery MC in New York. One of his tapestries was also selected to be shown at ArtPrize 2017 in Michigan.

Originally from Albania, he graduated from the Art Academy in Tirana where he received an MFA and completed advanced post-graduate studies in Art Criticism. Mr. Kolgjini believes that art is a mirror of the mind, spirit, and soul of a person, culture, and nation. As is illustrated in his artwork, he constantly attempts to express the essence of his and his community’s contemporary reality by drawing upon images of antiquity, which ultimately serve as orientation for the future.

CHAD BRIGGS, PH.D.

Dr. Chad Briggs was on leave from RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) during the 2017-18 academic year, primarily to conduct research in the areas of disaster planning and hybrid warfare in Southeastern and Eastern Europe. He was in Kyiv, Ukraine for several months in early 2018, studying the Russian language and working with experts from the Ukrainian Army and Swedish Defense Forces.

Publications in 2017/18:


MARK BASKIN, PH.D.

Dr. Mark A. Baskin is Director of the Peace and Conflict Program and teaches public policy and international relations at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). Earlier he was Research Professor of Political Science at the University at Albany’s Department of Political Science, a senior fellow at the State University of New York Center for International Development, and director of research at the Pearson Peace-keeping Centre in Canada. He worked in UN peacekeeping in Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia on second track diplomacy, policing, rule of law, local government, missing persons and war crimes. Dr. Baskin has held academic fellowships in the Balkans and at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. He has consulted for World Bank, the United Nations, the Common-wealth Parliamentary Association, UNDP, the Government of Canada and the U.S, Government in Africa, the Pacific Islands, Asia, Oceana and the Middle East, and has managed development projects in the Balkans, Middle East, Asia, Pacific Islands, and Africa.

Publications in 2018:

VENERA DEMUKAJ, PH.D.

Venera Demukaj joined RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) faculty in March 2011. She teaches Economics of Less Developed Countries and International Trade and Finance.

Publications in 2018:

Fjalori Enciklopedik i Kosovs (English: Kosovo Encyclopedia). Published by the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Kosovo in Prishtina 2018. (Dr. Demukaj has contributed in the section covering Economic).
THE IMPACT OF GIVING

Support a Student raises $45,000 for scholarship opportunities

On February 15, 2018, the Development Office of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) with the support of the Development Committee of the Board of Trustees and President, organized a special event – Support a Student - at the Cornell Club in New York, U.S. This fundraising event purposely coincided with the 10th anniversary of Kosovo’s independence. The key objective was to mark this important holiday by raising awareness and giving more attention to the factors that matter most to a newborn country, such as a high-quality American education.

Two Alumni, Dafina Arifi and Ardian Hasanj and two current scholarship recipient students Agnesa Jashari and Shkelqim Lloqanaj shared their stories. Their presentations described the challenges and how they’ve since benefited from the opportunity to study at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K).

Support the Next Success Story

"Support the Next Success Story" fundraising event was hosted at the Swiss Diamond Hotel in support of talented and underprivileged students. A total of 160 guests gathered at the Swiss Diamond Hotel to show their commitment and support to the future generations of our students. With help from our donor community, supporters and many friends of the institution, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) raised a record-high 85,475 Euros, addressing the institution goal to raise funding to provide more scholarship opportunities for current and future students.

The night featured many speeches including from the newly appointed President of Rochester Institute of Technology, Dr. David C. Munson, Prime Minister and Alumni, Ramush Hardina, and special guest, former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, General Wesley K. Clark. During General Clark’s time on stage he announced his plans to establish the Wesley K. Clark Scholarship.
RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) formed its first ever curling team this year, while also becoming the first team to represent Kosovo. The team traveled to Budapest in March to try for the first time on ice and meet with Scottish National Coach David Jones for a three-day training clinic.

A student group organized to establish a focal point for all environmental activities and programs at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), while creating a sustainable campus. Students engaged through lecture presentations, mountain visits and tutorials.

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) charity club presented a great opportunities for students to serve the community through services and awareness campaigns. Students often organized lectures, workshops and on campus fundraisers to raise money and reinvest in other awareness raising efforts.

Offered opportunities for students, alumni and staff to participate in a wide variety of sports events while showing off school spirit.

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ENHANCING OUR GLOBAL FOOTSTEP

Study Abroad
This year RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) joined the IIE Generation Study Abroad Initiative to help increase student, staff and faculty mobility. As a member, we joined a global community committed to supporting students and universities in creating a more global learning environment.

Windesheim Erasmus+
RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) President, Dr. Sharon Hart met with Head of Windesheim University of Applied Sciences International Office, Mr. Rob Maat in the Netherlands to finalize an Erasmus+ mobility exchange memorandum of understanding.

Middle East Technical University (METU) Erasmus+
RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) finalized an agreement with METU. Beginning in fall 2018 students, staff, and faculty will be able to apply and exchange freely between the two campuses.

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC)
RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) President Dr. Sharon Hart met with President of Des Moines Area Community President, Dr. Robert Denson to sign three agreements: a memorandum of understanding, articulation agreement, and Student Accession Partnership agreement. The memorandum established joint exchange programs.
Congratulations to RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Alumni Blina Meta Shala and Dafina O. Olluri and colleague Blerta Thaci listed in Forbes ‘30 under 30’ list in the category of “Law and Policy” for their work at Open Data Kosovo.

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) graduate Edon Muhaxheri is making waves in the design community internationally through his creative revival of a forgotten Albanian alphabet.
$3,19M
TOTAL REVENUE
2018
Total Revenue

Use of Funds
RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Community mourned the passing of our good colleague, Professor Ferida Tasholli.

Professor Tasholli did an outstanding job in the classroom, as coordinator of our Academic Support Center, as an Academic Senator, and as a friend and good-humored colleague to many. She is survived by her beloved husband and two sons, a father, three brothers, among extensive family in Australia, Kosovo, the Netherlands, and elsewhere.

Ms. Tasholli’s dedication, service and numerous contributions to RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) have significantly contributed to our success.

She will be remembered and celebrated as a respected colleague, dedicated faculty member and mentor, and friend to many.
# Meet Our Supporters

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