

The NOVA Chronicle

May Edition, 2011

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Valuable perspective from two very prominent individuals

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How Does It Feel to Preside Over the Estonian Parliament?

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Swiss Educators Come to NOVA On Time!

Students eager to discuss with Swiss guests their country that, like NOVA, is known for its successful model of cohabitation

Is it any surprise that 15 Swiss educators from a small town near Bazel would visit Nova, and on time? Perhaps yes, keeping in mind they had to navigate the Tetovo-Skopje traffic...

De Chirico and Warhol Influence Student Talents at IB Visual Arts Exhibition

Inspiration can lead from any direction

April 4, NOVA hosted Patrick Swann, an American teaching in Istanbul, who is also an IB Visual Arts examiner, to evaluate the work of IB candidates...

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HS May Calendar:

May 2
Labor Day

May 3
Mid-Q Reports

May 3-20
IB Exams

May 3-13
AP Exams

May 7
SAT I/II Exams

May 11
Intramural Football
Finals

May 13-14
TOEFL Exams

May 19
MAP in Reading

May 21- June 5
Senior Trip



The Family Bazaar Raises \$4,500, Donates to the Children's Clinic

Carnival moods, book and science fair, band performances, theater plays, dance and singing numbers, international cuisine, arts and crafts, and playground tricks

The NOVA Family Bazaar, continuing the annual tradition for a 5th time. Many students and parents did extensive preparation for this event, bringing food...

A Thunderous Welcome for the Earthquake Experts

Seismology 101: A myth-debunking experience for the denizens of Prashka bb

After Japan was hit by the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear accidents followed, it was expected that the denizens of Praska bb would soon be getting a lecture about earthquakes and tsunamis...

Beyond the Headlines, a Video Conference with Cairo

A thoughtful political, social, and economic discussion online

April 12th, NOVA student held a video conference, with a school from the Abd ElWahab ElBeshry, in the Sheraton Heliopolis Area of Cairo, Egypt...

Putting the Fun in Fundraising

Nova's IB Students Host a Rockin' Benefit for SUMNAL

You never need an excuse to party. But a party for a good cause makes it all the more exciting. On Sunday, 10th of April a fundraising party was organized..

Dynamic Duo's Inspiring Beat Box Performance and Award

Just having fun at the singing contest for the month of La Francophonie

"Ecoute, tu as un problem, c'est pas roue mais c'est rue." Such were the words I encountered as my mind flitted past the crowd to momentary disbelief...

Is it Love in the Spring Air, or is it Pollen? Spring time- Hayfever time

Those with allergies to whatever is in the air this time of year can understand why they are invariably and sympathetically addressed as allergy sufferers...

HS May Calendar:

May 24
Ss. Cyril and Methodius Day

May 26
PTA Assembly

May 26
MAP in Math

May 27
Climate Workshop by Swedish Institute & Embassy

May 28
TOEFL Exam

May 27
MAP in Language

June 2
Roundtable Social Justice Discussion with Ambassadors

May Surprise Visit
TBA

Year-Round Learning: **NOVA Underclassmen Accepted to Summer Programs Abroad - Ena Bandeska**, Columbia University: Leadership in Law Program; **David Dlaka**, Summer Institute for the Gifted; **David Dlaka**, Stanford University's Education Program for Gifted Youth; **Martina Dzeloska**, Columbia University Leadership in Law Program; **Simon Simoski**, Columbia University: Pre-College Program; **Bojan Srbinovski**, Telluride Association Summer Program at Cornell University; **Despina Stefanoska**, Summer Institute for the Gifted; **Stefan Stefanovski**, Northeastern University: College Prep

Governor Elect of the Macedonian National Bank Visits NOVA Students

NOVA recently hosted an Economic Seminar and Discussion with Dimitar Bogov, Governor-elect of the National Bank of Macedonia, and Mr. Aleksandar Stojkov, Assistant Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Law, St. Cyril and Methodius University. The seminar offered NOVA high school students an opportunity to discuss ongoing monetary policy with Mr. Bogov and Mr. Stojkov while gaining perspectives on current and future economic challenges affecting Macedonia.

Subjectively, as an AP Economics student, the discussion presented me with an opportunity to directly apply theories, concepts, and skills our class currently tackles in our study of macroeconomics. While AP and IB Economics students actively participated in the discussion, many other were on hand for the occasion as well.

Mr. Bogov started off by briefly comparing the role of the Central Bank of the United States (the Federal Reserve) and the European Central Bank. Mr. Bogov also provided background information on the structure and role of the Macedonian National Bank. By outlining the similarities and differences between the systems, students were able to understand the principles of monetary policy and the different measures taken to ultimately promote a healthy economy. His comparison instigated a lively student-led discussion as he introduced the importance of

measures such as price stability, as well as employment and economic growth.

Mr. Stojkov gave a brief presentation on monetary policy and the effects inflation has on the economy. Following his presentation, a question and answer session allowed students to ask about issues of interest, ranging from international trade and currency valuation, to domestic issues concerning Macedonia's economic prospect. One popular topic discussed included the relationship between the independence of central banks from government control and resulting inflation rates. Half way through the discussions, students seemed comfortable in asking questions, thus gaining valuable perspective from two very prominent individuals of the monetary system and academia.

The discussion allowed NOVA students to think critically about monetary policy, and apply somewhat abstract concepts learned in class to current events and issues, a challenge that lurks around every corner, down the path of aspiring Economics students. Students are looking forward to the next opportunity to place their economic theory into practice as Executive Director of Stopanska Banka, and former vice-governor of the Macedonian national bank, Mr. Gligor Bisev visits the school next.



Valuable perspective from two very prominent individuals



How Does It Feel to Preside Over the Estonian Parliament?

Nova students were given the opportunity to conduct several plenary sessions at the Riigikogu (the Estonian parliament in Tallinn)



The snowy city of Tallinn nestled on the shores of the North Sea was this year's venue for the Spring Session of the 34th International Model European Parliament (MEP) conference.

In anticipation of the upcoming International Autumn Session, held here in Skopje on October 30-November 6, hosted by NOVA, and observed by five other large gymnasiums from the central Skopje area, the Macedonian delegation was assigned the challenging task, in addition to its primary diplomatic mission, to receive the required training and practice for presiding over the General Assembly (GA) in the Собрание (the Macedonian parliament).

Two of our students, Ms. Monika Spancheska and Mr. Atdhe Sulejmani were appointed directly by the MEP Secretary General, Mrs. Anna van Sminia, and were given the opportunity to conduct several plenary sessions at the Riigikogu (the Estonian parliament), as well as to preside over the Committee on Industry, Research, and Energy, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs (I) respectively.

The other five members of our delegation, Mr. Bojan Srbinovski, Mr. Emil Bishev, Ms. Rina Gorcaj, Ms. Angela Petrevska and Mr. Willem van Boven took active part in the work of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (I), Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Committee on Foreign Affairs (II), Committee on

Constitutional Affairs, and Committee on Culture and Education (I) respectively.

Our delegates' contribution to the committees' work proved invaluable in tackling questions related to the recent economic and financial crisis that shook the world, the freedom of the media (WikiLeaks), the sustainability of nuclear power as an alternative energy source, the drug, alcohol and nicotine abuse in relation to children's health, as well as the democratization of authoritarian regimes, the prevention of growing nationalism in the EU, and the Lisbon Treaty consolidation of the EU.

The multiple resolutions that our delegates drafted together with their counterparts from other European countries reaffirmed the cross-cultural and trans-national understanding as the backbone of the MEP organization. In their inspiring and compelling speeches, our students exhibited exceptional intellectual and emotional maturity, asserted cosmopolitan and progressive ideas, and showed profound individual understanding of global citizenship, thus flying Nova's colors high.

As the dust was settling, our delegates' resolutions were adopted by the GA, and praised by the Estonian organizers and the MEP Secretary-General. This further reinforced notions of our readiness as a school to plan and organize the next International MEP session in the heart of the Balkans, Skopje. Let the preparation and anticipation begin.

Female Manager of the Year Goes to the Head of NOVA Schools



When one's legacy continues to thrive, and inspire the actions of many others

There is an old saying that 'behind every successful man, there is a successful woman'. Who should we presume is behind the successful woman?

There are women, coming from humble upbringings that have started their legacy at a grass-roots level, but that have also overcome historically multiple male dominated notions of success. Such successful women include the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Anita Roddick, and JK Rowling. To that list we can add our very own head of school Mrs. Venera Novakovska, who on March 31st 2011 received the award for 'Female Manager of the Year'.

What makes a successful woman? What traits and qualities does a successful woman have? Does her story inspire other women to be

vaguely familiar. In just under 45 minutes however, I was reminded of makes a successful woman.

From the very beginning, Mrs Novakovska started with a vision that makes what NOVA is today- a place of opportunities for intellectual, cultural and personal growth, moulding individuals to be socially tolerant, responsible and respectful towards human diversity. This vision did not happen overnight, as a lot of blood, sweat and tears were poured into a project almost twenty years ago, to make that vision become reality.

Mrs. Novakovska's early academic pursuits in educational management and leadership, and NOVA's initial language institute all contributed to a special brew. Starting from scratch, meticulous planning, enthusiasm, perseverance and hard work; obtaining expert advice from Macedonia

successful?

I was recently given the opportunity to accompany Mrs Novakovska to a presentation at the Faculty of Economics where she was giving a guest lecture. Taking a seat in an amphitheatre filled with students, going back to this kind of setting, felt only

and abroad, visiting hundreds of schools world-wide, developing a model of education that is distinguishable from any other educational institution in Macedonia, are all fragments of Mrs. Novakovska's success. It wasn't smooth sailing, as the bureaucratic red tape of Government approvals took some persistence; nevertheless, NOVA opened its doors to its first generation of freshmen in 1997. From here on the NOVA we know today took off and Mrs. Novakovska's vision was in full view. Even as the state-of-the-art educational facility was opened, and international recognition and accreditation obtained, it seemed like the journey had just begun. To this lengthy resume, in 2010 NOVA once again opened its doors to a brand new and award winning facility, this time meant for Early Education, Elementary and Middle school children.

When asked by a student how Mrs. Novakovska juggled family life and realising her dreams, her answer was plain - she could not have accomplished all without the help, hard work and support from her family.

Mrs. Novakovska's story will continue to inspire other women to achieve own success. Perhaps this is the greatest success of all, when one's legacy continues to thrive, and inspire the actions of many others. With sincere gratitude to our beloved head of school for her continued efforts at our school, we wish her many more such acknowledgements.

A Quick Trip to Duke University

The journey to Duke began long ago, for Ana, a Boris Trajkovski fellow, has devoted her high school career to student leadership, volunteerism, a rigorous course load, summer programs, internships, and, of course, the challenges of standardized testing (APs and SATs).

On March 4th, NOVA senior Ana Kotevska received an invitation to Duke University. In that invitation, she learned that, in addition to being accepted into Duke University's Class of 2015, she was one of 42 candidates selected from over 29,000 applicants for the opportunity to become an Angier B. Duke Scholar.

From this pool of 42 candidates, only 15 could be selected to become A. B. Duke Scholars, who are awarded — on top of full tuition, room and board, and all mandatory fees — funding for summer study at the University of Oxford, summer internships, and other research projects. Moreover, A. B. Duke Scholars are given further opportunities to excel through special mentorship from faculty, staff, and the A.B. Duke community composed of alumni and fellow scholars.

Facing such an extraordinary invitation, Ana accepted the

all-expense paid trip to Duke University to meet the 41 other A. B. Duke contenders, the current scholars, as well as a number of faculty members. During her 3-day trip during the first week of April, Ana was also able to tour Duke's campus, attend formal dinners, take in a student theatre production, as well as attend undergraduate classes on gender and language, neuroscience, and psychology. Of course, the trip was not simply a customized campus visit: Ana also had interviews with current A.B. Duke scholars and several of the university's Deans, and she clearly felt substantial pressure in interviewing alongside other such accomplished students.

Even so, Ana carried herself with poise and enthusiasm for, despite the fierce competition, she learned shortly after returning to Skopje, that she had been selected as an A. B. Duke fellow.





Inspiration can lead to any direction

De Chirico and Warhol Influence Student Talents at IB Visual Arts Exhibition

On April 4, NOVA hosted the IB Visual Arts examiner to evaluate the work of IB candidates Ivana Istochka and Marija Angelovska. Later that evening, once the pressure of the examination was over, the two held a Visual Arts exhibition in the halls of NOVA. The two have offered to share their reflections on the IB Visual Arts experience with the Chronicle.

Ivana Istochka:

“IB Visual Arts has two options: Option A (40% Research Book, 60% Studio Work) and Option B (60% Research, 40% Studio). I chose option B because of my interests in the historical and social influences on art and in investigating human

nature. While I was researching artists and periods in art, my focus was primarily on the inspiration of the works and in interpreting its meanings and influences. Despite the fact that research about different periods and artists had been conducted parallel to every project, I could see a connection between my projects and the philosophies I had formed. In most of them, I depicted different human sensibilities and incorporating motifs from De Chirico’s art. The investigation process allowed me not only to investigate art but to investigate myself.”

Marija Angelovska:

“I chose Option A, which enabled me to expand my general knowledge of art elements and principles,

just as it provided an opportunity in which I could freely experiment with new techniques and media, becoming aware of my development as a young artist. As I became aware of my potential, I also realized that I was primarily attracted by intensive colors and strong lines. Some of the artists that had influenced my development are Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol and Paul Cezanne. During the whole course, I experimented with many different media, but my main focus was placed on painting and illustration. Since I am planning to continue learning arts in college, I am sure that the IB Visual Arts course has provided me with the foundation I need for my future.”

David Antik - Getting to the World Renowned Instituto de Impresa (IE)

Choosing the Road Less Traveled



I bumped into one of our own, David Antik, a Nova alumnus and a former Economics student of mine. I was making the most of the given opportunity by trying to squeeze nearly six years of vacuum into a short conversation. It took me an extra few seconds to process his casually asserted remark: "I'll be off to Instituto de Impresa this September". I smiled as I was reminded - he despises self-importance, and would mask insight by using simple language and a modest voice,

doing his best to detract attention from himself. I wasn't about to grant him his wish though, and excitedly requested to meet him for coffee and discuss the great news.

Instituto de Impresa, or IE for short, situated in cosmopolitan Madrid, has been one of the highest ranked business schools in the world according to sources, including the Financial Times. That David would fit well at IE is beyond any reasonable doubt; how he actually did it is truly trailblazing. He isn't the kind of student to have strategized an academic profile primed for the Ivy Leagues. In those days, not many of his classmates aimed there. David's modest take on the most valuable gain from high school is that he learned to think, and to enjoy education. And while he also enjoyed the full confidence of his teachers, he never

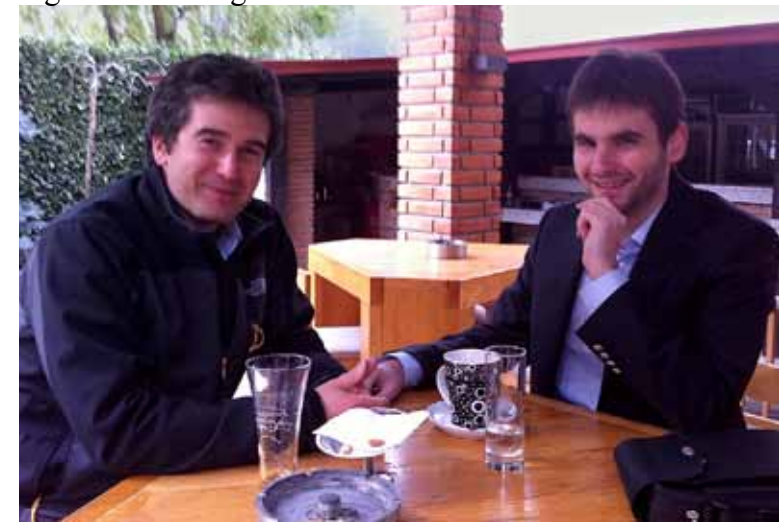
insisted on a spotless GPA. David's next destination, Sheffield's business program in Thessaloniki, was well paved by many of his former classmates. That he's currently back in Skopje, helping his family manage a successful business, is also common for returning Nova alumni.

However, gaining an acceptance at arguably one of the most selective institutions in the world sounded like a departure from his modest goals. Leveraging

his experience as an international high school student, and again as an international college student in Greece, and adding work experience to the mix, obviously struck a nerve with IE's admissions.

He is to do an MBA in Finance, a useful, but very costly ordeal. Trying not to miss out on the opportunity, but also keep his independence intact, he has successfully negotiated a long-term mortgage backed loan as a way to finance his graduate studies. This should be eye-opening for anyone who's less keen on (pre)programming their entire academic experience to certain goals. It is also encouraging to hear how students may engage in academic opportunities at highly selective institutions at a later time, when the stars are better aligned.

Our heartfelt congratulations to David, and gratitude for having trail-blazed a unique path to an amazing institution, doing so independently, going down the road less traveled, and hopefully inspiring future Nova generations.



Marija Simidjievska, Class of 2007

Valedictorian, and a recent graduate of Bocconi University's International Economics Program, sat down for a brief Q and A session with The Nova Chronicle. For her valid insights, we thank her.

WHY BOCCONI? For me, choosing Bocconi was purely a matter of chance. I was already determined to continue my studies in the field of economics, but I still hadn't decided as to where they would take place. A former childhood friend of mine was already a student at Bocconi, and I happened to meet him in the city center while he was visiting Skopje. He told me all about Bocconi, how satisfied he was with the quality of the university, the program that he was following, and the overall study abroad experience. The chance of getting a scholarship at a world class university only made the offer more tempting. From this point on I was set to go to this university.

WHY ITALY? As for the choice of country, the fact that Bocconi is in Italy, bore no influence on my decision to apply, and later on, attend this university.

WNY ECONOMICS? As a major I chose finance. Finance is practical, easily applicable in real life, and novelties are introduced everyday in this field. The fact that finance is based almost entirely on mathematics only made it perfect for me as a carrier path.



HOW PREPARED WERE YOU FOR THE PROGRAM (to what extent, did your studies at Nova come to practical use)? In my opinion, students who graduate from NOVA already go to university with an advantage that we don't recognize right away-the aptitude in English. For me it was only natural to follow my lectures, study for my exams, and do my exams all in English; while I have friends who struggled greatly at the beginning with this. Also, what I found to be a great advantage was having taken AP Calculus and AP Economics. With AP Calculus I had an excellent head start in the math of statistics, econometrics, and financial math. And AP Economics gave me a great basis for the future studies.

AS an ALUMNA, what are your thoughts on possible changes that Nova may implement in order to support future Economics students? From today's perspective, as an Alumna, I would suggest to make the Economics course at NOVA a two year one. I believe that by starting with economics in the third year, the program could be more advanced, and it could cover more fields of economics (instead of just having the main macro and microeconomics, the program could also cover an introduction in accounting, statistics, finance, management, etc.) This way, students will have a better jump start at the first year, mandatory courses at any economics university.

FUTURE PLANS? Now that I am also an Alumna of Bocconi, my plans for the future are to continue with my studies at a Masters level. Right now I am in Skopje, and currently I am working at the Clearing House-KIBS.

Swiss Educators Come to NOVA On Time!

Students eager to discuss with Swiss guests this diverse country that, like NOVA, is known for its successful model of cohabitation

Is it any surprise that 15 Swiss educators from a small town near Basel would visit Nova, and on time? Perhaps yes, keeping in mind they had to navigate the Tetovo-Skopje traffic, but like clockwork, they showed up at Nova's doorsteps. Accompanied by their host Zoran Andonov from Photo Cinema Club Tetovo, some on their second or third visit of Macedonia, they wanted to spend a day touring sites around Skopje that could challenge their assumptions about Macedonia.

The group planned a visit to a Roma shelter later that afternoon; earlier, our fellow educators from Switzerland were granted their wish to see an international community school in Macedonia. Zoran, himself visiting Nova for the first time, thought bringing them here would be most representative. They were interested to find out why there's a large international school in Macedonia, whereby in more populated neighboring countries there typically is one smaller size international school.

All fifteen teachers, learning specialists or administrators at the Sekundarschule MUTTENZ joined a roundtable discussion with the foreign language and social studies students at Nova. It was no surprise that some of the guests, relative to their own comfort level with English, used their French, German, Italian, and even Spanish to address the students; it was more surprising however that many of the students were able to fluently respond in the language spoken, and further discuss own impressions or memories of Switzerland. The social studies students weighed in, eager to discuss Switzerland's political profile as a country rich in diversity that in time has created a successful model of cohabitation. Parallels between the openness of Nova's international community to diversity and

the general schooling environment in Macedonia generated great debate. Some of our euro-minded upperclassman used the opportunity to ask questions related to the Swiss higher education system.

Some of the Swiss educators on hand have been working on integrating refugees and asylum-seekers to Switzerland at their own school in Muttenz, often times and regrettably, coming in large numbers from our Balkan region. They are entrusted to make the education work for kids who know very little of the language or schooling in Switzerland. This is done in small groups, focusing on individual needs. They were thrilled to see Nova's Center for Differentiated Learning in action and to hear of individual and small group work underway to support complex learning needs, as well as the renewed focus on the gifted and talented.

The principal of the Swiss school was also on hand the share with everyone his astonishment that such a vibrant community existed in Macedonia. In the large auditorium, he pointed out that many schools in Switzerland could not afford Nova's facilities and infrastructure for learning. This may have come as a shock to those who see Switzerland rightfully as one of the wealthiest countries.

Handshakes and hugs were aplenty as our guests were making their exit, and some suspicion that, for many, it may not be the last they see Nova.



Fabulous Time Gets Students from Spring Trip Back, After Midnight

‘A journey is best measured in friends, rather than the miles travelled’ – Tim Cahill



An excursion of the kind you remember if not because of the uniqueness of the events, then because of the simple fact that they occur outside of your school and country.

Having the chance to cross the border to our southern neighbours just last year, for most of us wasn't completely new. However, a 2-day stay at one of northern Greece's most beautiful resorts- Porto Carras, and a 2-hour boat cruise around the authentic Republic of Mt. Athos was not to leave anyone in doubt of whether to go to Greece once again.

April 8 Saturday at approximately 8.30 in the morning, two buses with approximately 80 students and 8 friendly (but supervising) teachers left from NOVA High School. At around 3pm (Greek local time) we stopped at the port-city of Ournaoupolis. A booming touristic spot in the summertime, located at the very top of the third peninsula of Chalkidhiki, characterized by narrow streets, picturesque style of architecture, fantastic contact with water and sunlight and welcoming people,- things that placed it amongst the beauties of our minds, though currently missing its true liveliness. (Ενα Γυρω! / One Giro!)

Over an hour later we were on our way to our hotel. Magnitude, luxury, elegance, and incredible cuisine. Busy with admiration of the

hotel and its environments, it was soon after that we were lead to dine and enjoy various specialties rich in looks and taste. Later that evening we gathered in the hotel's night club for our very own party, complete with a dancing competition, showcasing the will or skill of our beloved classmates, while keeping our moods high through the night.

The next day we were full with anticipation, waiting to circumnavigate Mt. Athos, a sacred and serene place. As the sun was shining strongly and the wind traced haphazardly, the feeling one had of Mt. Athos was truly serene and magnificent. A saint place for the religious, Mt. Athos is also a self-governed monastic state that falls within the jurisdiction of the Hellenic Republic; it consists of 20 monasteries (17 Greek, Russian, Bulgarian and Serbian). Obedient to the laws of not allowing close contact or women within 500m of land, we were able to take a clear view of 8 monasteries along the eastern coastline, from a distance. One last refreshment in the *tavernas* of Ournaoupolis before making the trip back home, long enough so it would remind us what it meant to have friends. The excursion made us reaffirm our friendships, an everlasting evidence of the great times spent together, forever solidified in our hearts and memories. Until the next adventure.

Fjolla Zllatku



Summer is for Summer Camps

Summer is approaching rapidly, and with it comes all the fun and relaxation needed after a long school year. Papers and tests can now be replaced by sleeping and socializing. Skopje has no shortage of activities to keep its inhabitants busy over the summer break.

Here at NOVA, we offer two great summer camps that help youth stay busy and enjoy the outdoors. These camps are great for keeping the mind and body in shape. The school offers two programs: Summer School and The Sports Camp. Both are modeled after classic American summer camps, offering a variety of activities to open one's mind to new ideas.

The Summer School is a fun camp that allows students to continue learning at the same time as they are seeing their friends. The camp runs from Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm and is full of recreational activities ranging from English to volleyball.

If Summer School is not to taste, NOVA also offers a Sports Camp, which offers a wide range of activities to keep the campers active and allow them to learn new skills. Throughout the summer, campers in the Sports Camp learn how to kayak, rock climb, bowl, ride horses, swim and more. The Sports Camp has trained instructors teaching all of these activities and ensuring everything is done safely. The Sports Camp offers exceptional team-building exercises, as well as individual activities. These team-building games are an amazing opportunity for campers from all walks of life to work together and become close friends.

This summer is shaping up to be a great time. The NOVA Camps are getting bigger and better each year. We hope to see you there and enjoy another great season of fun and exploration.



These NOVA summer camps are great for keeping the mind and body in shape



Learning New Kinds of Work

As an international nonprofit, Habitat for Humanity (HFH) aims to build and repair decent and affordable houses for those who lack adequate shelter. The organization has served the housing needs of 2 million people around the world and continues to function based on volunteerism and donations of money and building materials. Homeowners invest hours of work to build not only their own houses, but those of others as well, in order to reduce housing costs. In addition to aid through housing, HFH works with various microfinance institutions to provide homeowners with loans to improve their living conditions. Trainings are also implemented to teach new homeowners management and financial responsibility.

The HFH Campus Chapter was setup at NOVA for the first time by Learning Specialist Lucas Kutzy. A Campus Chapter is a student-led, student-initiated organization at the local high school or college campus that partners with HFH to fulfill the four functions of Building, Fundraising, Advocating and Educating.

Despite its recent beginning, NOVA's Campus Chapter had staged

a first fundraising effort recently. Through the accumulated effort of its 17 members, the club raised funds at NOVA's annual Spring Bazaar.

The purpose of Building has been served by NOVA student volunteer groups each spring, in several week-long intervals. So far, students volunteered at the site in Veles which aims to make a community of 62 homes built in 11 units with apartments ranging from 40 to 80 square meters. Future sites that target the housing of Roma populations are in the works, soon to be located in Shuto Orizari, Tetovo, Gostivar and Kumanovo. The club looks forward to joint efforts with Habitat in these areas as well, so as to generate greater impact.

Volunteerism may be done close to home. Raising awareness is the aim of the Advocating and Educating functions of the chapter. This is done by hosting HFH speakers, campaigning, newspaper writing, or fact sheets printing. The Campus Chapter at Nova will continue to aid Habitat's vision in any way possible, and welcomes new members who are willing to commit to the goal of providing shelters for the underprivileged, regardless of ethnic, racial or religious background. See you at one of the future construction sites.

Bisera Djundeva



Students Help Build Homes in Veles





Putting the Fun in Fundraising

You never need an excuse to party. But a party for a good cause makes it all the more exciting. On Sunday, 10th of April a fundraising party was organized by the students Ivana Istochka and Emilija Markovska as a part of the CAS program.

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) is a mandatory core component of the IB Diploma Programme whereby IB candidates must complete 50 hours in each area and organize a project in at least two areas of the program. Ivana and Emilija decided

to be creative, but also contribute to society by donating the proceeds to the Sumnal organization, a place they have helped in the past two years.

Association of Citizens Sumnal is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting roma students and their families, from preschool to age 18, in their drive to improve their lives and living standards through education. It organizes and performs various educational, creative and motivational activities in which the students from Nova have been taking part for years now.



Nova's IB Students Host Rockin' Benefit for SUMNAL

The fundraising party took place at Paradox Café, with nearly 100 people in attendance. The band "Mushu and the Cage" had an entertaining and energetic performance, later followed by a vibrant karaoke party. The cover was 100 denars and there were boxes marked for donations placed at the entrance and inside the Café. Altogether, some 14,000 denars were gathered, a drop in the ocean, but a token of the students' heartfelt efforts to help the Sumnal organization in their endeavor.



A Thunderous Welcome for the Earthquake Experts...

After Japan was hit by the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear accidents followed, it was expected that the denizens of Praska bb would soon be getting a lecture about earthquakes and tsunamis. More specifically, NOVA was visited by professors from the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology, who spoke about the causes and effects of these destructive forces of nature, and which damage prevention methods are successful for constructing infrastructure in earthquake-prone regions.

Beginning with a short introduction by Professor Dimitar Jurukovski on the about the history of the Institute, Professor Vlatko Sheshov then took over with a basic explanation of the definition of an earthquake – news for some students, last semester’s material for others. One of the crucial lessons of the presentation was the importance of researching a location’s earthquake history before beginning construction. As the professors said, it is miscalculations, ignorance, and disregard for seismological evidence of tectonic plate activity that are often the reason for most of the damage caused by these natural disasters. The importance of choosing the right structure and building materials in construction was stressed, something that the future architects in the audience undoubtedly found useful.



Seismology 101: A myth-debunking experience for the denizens of Prashka bb.



Boredom was something that the attendees feared when they saw yet another PowerPoint Presentation projected on the screen, yet boredom is not a word that could be used to describe the lecture; au contraire, it was quite interactive. Along with the numerous graphs, charts, and photographs of the demolition several earthquakes

left behind in the past century, the audience made the presentation even more engaging by asking countless questions about some myths surrounding the tests performed and predictions made by seismologists. Students and educators alike enjoyed listening to the lecture as much as the professors from IZIIS enjoyed giving it.

Beyond the Headlines, a Video Conference with Cairo

A thoughtful political, social, and economic discussion online

On April 12th, NOVA students held a video conference, aided by Edu-Systems International, an Egyptian leader in education, helping Nova connect to a school from Abd ElWahab ElBeshry, near the Sheraton Heliopolis Area of Cairo, Egypt. This conference was attended by a number of enthusiastic students, including the AP Comparative Government & Politics and the AP Micro- and Macro-economics classes. The students came to the online meeting having prepared several probing political, social, and economic questions. Several of the responses are featured below.

Why did a revolution occur now, and not earlier?
When Egyptians saw what was happening in Tunisia — the revolts, the strikes, the mistreatment of the citizens — they realized they were in a very similar situation and therefore decided to spring into action. Egyptians were inspired to act against government oppression in an attempt to improve their way of life.

How do you see the future of Egypt?
As people we are positive and happy; each person is putting a lot of effort and hard work to improve their society. Ever since the revolution, many social organizations and campaigns are being created, such as 'Keep Egypt Clean' to encourage people to improve their surroundings. They are expecting a number of liberties in return, under the new regime.

What do you think of Mubarak's regime?
Egyptians were unsatisfied and angry with the regime. Mubarak ruled for too long and abused his power to rule. He mistreated people and took away many liberties. During his regime, the Egyptian people had almost no liberties; the government did what it pleased.



What do you think of the interference of other governments and organizations such as NATO?
The Egyptian people do not want other governments to interfere; they will not accept interference other than possibly advice.

Is it true that women will be excluded from the new government?
No, we haven't heard any such claim; women are definitely in politics. The government will not get a chance to exclude women from politics. We actually think that women will be granted treatment on a more equal footing.

What do you think if the Muslim Brotherhood? And how would you react if they came to power?
The Muslim brotherhood, like other parties, can take part in the elections. They can come to power, but they can't do a lot of harm. Even if they win the elections or become a part of the new government,



it will still be viewed positively.

What is going to happen with the economy? What market changes if any are going to be made?
Since the early days of the Egyptian Republic, the economy suffered a lot of changes. There was a long and difficult transition from a closed economy, dominated by the public sector, towards an economy open to investments, and a system to stimulate private sector growth. However, many of the Egyptian people could not feel the benefits from the reforms and their standard of living had not improved as they had expected. What is important today is that everyone wants to work hard and put a lot of energy into making Egypt a better and stronger economy. We are trying to decrease the amount of imports, and try to export more oil and cotton.

What is your relationship with Israel? And would Israel interfere in your politics?
The relation with Israel is very stable; both sides respect each other. However, we both have different politics and policies; therefore neither of us should interfere in each other's politics.

NOVA students were excited for the opportunity to have a live videoconference and learn more about the opinions of their Egyptian peers firsthand. Many students were eager to hold several more videoconferences, as time was a limiting factor. They will be granted their wish, and then some. Next stop, Beijing-China!

The Family Bazaar

Raises \$4,500, Helps the Children's Clinic

Carnival moods captured by the book and science fair, band performances, a theater play, dance and singing numbers, international cuisine, arts and crafts, and playground tricks

Once again this year, our school organized what we know as The NOVA Family Bazaar, continuing the annual tradition for a 5th time. Many students and parents did extensive preparation for this event, bringing food to the NOVA Middle School area where this April 16th event happened.

Visitors had a chance to try out food from 20 countries, including popular tables by the Netherlands, Turkey, Sweden, Austria, Croatia, and Slovenia. Alongside food, there was a variety of crafts and jewelry for sale.

Entertaining the swarming crowd in the several hour period were the MS band, performances by Djundeve, Bosworth, Nacev, Milchev and several other talented musicians from the study body.

The dance class has yet again shown their moves, this time to “Ching A Ling” by Missy Eliot, under the alert eyes of Mrs. Velkova

and Mr. Angelkovski. According to Sara Ristovska, one of the dancers, “preparation was fun and took time, but it definitely paid off at the bazaar.” Not to be omitted is NOVA’s French Drama Club, which presented *Le Bistro*.

And yet, regardless of all the amusement, the cause was perhaps the most important of all. Part of the funds raised — not only by the food and crafts sold but also the customary lottery that took place again — are about to be spent on inhalators for the Kids Clinic of Skopje. Adding it all up, this year’s donation totaled €3000.

The NOVA community has repeatedly shown their eagerness to help make a difference, and we all hope that along with the enjoyable activities, the Bazaar will result in a positive change for those that need help. We are thankful to all those that helped organize it, including parents, donors, sponsors, teachers, and student volunteers.



The Local Stage: Talent on Display at the Bazaar

Solid performances got the whole audience moving.

NOVA International Schools was the place to be on Saturday, April 16, hosting an International Family Bazaar and a multifaceted talent show with salsa dancing, hip-hop, theatre, and outstanding musicians singing in French and English. Our students showed guests what they feel, made their expression visible, and used this great opportunity to build even more confidence.

HS students opened the event with an energetic hip-hop dance prepared by our dance choreographer, Mr. Ivan Angelkovski. This kind of dance allows freedom of movement for the dancers, adding in their own personalities depending on skills and experience. At the Bazaar, we saw that our students have mastered more than the basic steps and movements of hip-hop. With this dance, they will participate in the Humanitarian Concert in Helsinki on May 7, 2011 via video internet connection.

Right after the hip-hop dance, there followed a famous French song originally sung by Edith Piaf, impeccably performed

by our two students: Bisera Dzundeva and Alex Bosworth. Singing this song, they won the 3rd prize in the French Song Competition that took place in Skopje in March.

Not only did we include singing and dancing, but we also had a French theatre play performed by our students: Elpis Amoridou, Marija Petrovska, Fjolla Zlatku, Ana Kraljevic, Valerie Peovska and Foteini Ypsifanti. The scenes of this play articulated universal feelings, from trivial to dauntingly serious, yielding much pleasure for the audience. It was not their first time to perform the play. They participated in the Theatre Play Competition a month ago and were also invited to take part in several theatre festivals.

Finally, our one and only school band "Mushu and the Cage," featuring M2 Star Sara Markoska, rocked the stage singing covers of famous artists and showing solid singing technique and abilities that got the whole audience moving.



A World Tour in One Building: Culinary Experiences at the Family Bazaar



People come to NOVA for many reasons, but on Saturday, April 16, they all came with one common desire- to delight in the extraordinary cuisines of different countries or regions. Seeing that, in the past, visitors were blown away by the taste and quality of this wonderful food, we were 100 % sure that they would come back this year. And they did. And in large numbers.

From Macedonian Spinach-pie, homemade bread, ajvar and sarma — which are guaranteed to satisfy the most discriminated palate — to flavorsome Russian cookies, spicy Greek *mousaka*, *souflakia* and big beans, delicious Swedish meatballs, chocolate-drenched American cookies and caramel-infused brownies, luscious Hungarian pancakes, Dutch apple tarts, Turkish *couscous* and more. The abundance of menus and dishes is too long to describe here. Those who want to know will have to see what next April brings.

KISIR (Turkish Couscous Recipe)

Ingredients:

2 Cups Bulgur Wheat
 4 Cups Water
 1 tbs Salt
 1 tbs Tomato Paste
 1 tbs Ground Cumin
 1 Medium Chopped Onion
 2 Diced Tomatoes
 1 Bunch Chopped Green Onion
 1 Bunch Chopped Dill
 1 Bunch Chopped Mint
 1 tbs Red Pepper Flakes
 1/2-1 Cup Sunflower or Veg. oil
 Juice of 2 Lemons

Serves 6 - 8 persons.

Bring water and salt to heavy boil. Add bulgur wheat, tomato paste, cumin, chopped onion and stir. Cover, turn off heat and let sit for 15 minutes. Let cool to room temperature. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well together. Turkish Couscous can be prepared in advance and served at room temperature on a bed of lettuce leaf.



Dynamic Duo's Inspiring Beat Box Performance and Award



Just having fun at the singing contest for the month of La Francophonie

Ecouté, tu as un problème, c'est pas roue mais c'est rue. Such were the words I encountered as my mind flitted past the crowd to momentary disbelief at the sudden approach of a fluent speaker. I smiled at the judge and shouted an enthusiastic French reply past the surrounding noise. I don't care for minor details, I did what I wanted to do and I had fun. When

I signed up for the competition I accepted a new challenge. When I faced the choice of participating in only one of two competitions, (that of a French play and French singing,) I had doubts as to what I should do. Signing up for either meant confronting a challenge that I would equally enjoy. I did not win first place at the competition but received a third place prize for my originality which was also



due to one of my best friends' contribution, Alex Bosworth. Having no karaoke background music for my song, I asked Alex to beat-box for me to which he immediately agreed. I feel proud of the wonderful play my friends created and grateful to their support along with that of Alex, and our French teacher, Ms. Julija Zisovska, for all her effort in the process. The French Cultural Centre in Skopje organizes events for the month of La Francophonie each year to promote the education and culture of the French speaking world. This year, fifty participants from all over the country competed in the singing contest. This marks a great achievement for the center itself as well as the competitors through all their efforts to learn a language in a different context. As this year proved, learning extends beyond the classroom, and will continue to do so in years to come.

Bisera Djundeva

Is it Love in the Spring Air, or is it Pollen?



Karen Lied Spring time - Hayfever time

Those with allergies to whatever is in the air this time of year can understand why they are invariably and sympathetically addressed as allergy “sufferers”. People with other ailments are referred to simply as patients, like heart patients or chronic pain patients. But the advertising people know who really suffers.

Anyone who has a pollen allergy knows it is like a head cold that never resolves. If it could be artificially induced, the itch in the eyes could be used to get political secrets out of Jason Bourne and his employers. And don’t look now, but a scientist from the US Department of Agriculture says that the current climate change is causing the ragweed season to be measurably longer. Twenty-seven days longer in some places. And ragweed is said to be producing twice as much pollen compared to a century ago.

What is an allergy anyway? Allergies develop when an overambitious immune system

responds to a tiny irritant, say pollen, from grass or ragweed. Pets, mould and dust mites also contribute their share of bothersome invaders. Some think that we create our own sensitivities by developing a more sterile environment. There is some evidence to this effect, suggesting that children exposed to more viral illnesses in pre-school have less of an allergic risk.

Since we’ve tackled gene splicing, and atom splitting, and android mock-apps of the Iphone, surely a cure for pollen allergy isn’t that far of a stretch. Didn’t we just read about a NOVA grad solving the unsolvable math puzzle? Could one of you seniors – perhaps Ivana Grebenakova, going into Bio/ Neuroscience at Jacobs Bremen, Ana Kotevska, going into Behaviour Sciences at Harvard, or Aparna Singh, going into Biomedical Engineering at IIT- take the unsolvable medical puzzle? Allergy sufferers would be so grateful.



“Love is in the air,
Everywhere I look around,
Love is in the air,
Every sight and every
sound...”



Notes from the field: of matters performative, of teachable elements

I am at the stage in my teaching career when I prefer plays to novels or short stories. Perhaps it is my overall love for all things performative, perhaps my schooling in theatre studies; nonetheless, I see accessibility in play-texts which no novel or short story for that matter can provide, disregarding its distinct cleverness and overall social impact.

Meaning: plays engage a reader, any reader, young and old, experienced or a novice, at all levels of text – the literal, the symbolic, the metaphorical, the allegorical and/or the corporal. Also, a scene is a self-contained unit, as is a monologue, one which any teacher in any classroom in the world (traditional, conservative, outdoorsy) can access in around 40 minutes. The same cannot be said across the board for a chapter in a novel, or a passage from a short story. It will always give out the sense of a broken ending, a patch without the patchwork.

On that note, let's take a classic work, for example. And by classic I do not mean of 'the classical period'; simply, a work that almost all curricula practiced now, almost anywhere, would be looking at: Shakespeare's Hamlet.

Given the believed complexity of Elizabethan diction, most editions have so-called 'cheat-like' pages, whence the insurmountable language barriers are crossed, mostly adjacent in page to the language in question. Armed with such a

power-tool, take any scene: the Hamlet-Ophelia confrontation; the Hamlet-Gertrude confrontation; the Hamlet-Hamlet (times 100) confrontation. In a period class of 40 minutes, teacher and students alike can cover such one self-contained unit: meet/revisit a man who is plagued by doubt, torn by duty and bored beyond belief. Indeed, Hamlet, our contemporary, as Jan Kott postulated awhile back.

If lucky, and time-permitting, a bit of innovative critical hindsight can be added to the mix, a few new rhetorical devices comprehended (think chiasmus), and a poetic syntax demasked (think broken iambs), not to mention, props, accessories, sounds, smells, laughter, and a handful of tears. The same cannot apply to any novel, be it a Dostoyevsky, a Tolstoy, a Roth, or a Morrison production. Not play-ful enough.

Bela Gligorova

The author, a beloved Nova teacher, has a PhD in American Studies, with a focus on 20th-century performance theory and auto/ethno/biography and is currently a Junior Fellow/Researcher at The University of the Arts in Belgrade. She is a distinguished member of the NOVA community, and continues to provide counsel to school leadership on important educational affairs.



On EXILE

Exile is mostly a linguistic event. (Joseph Brodsky)



Some of my favorite writers, if not all, had come to writing through a particular exilic relationship. Either with their birth place or their citizenship status or their choice of residence. Even with their choice of language.

Albahari, Hemon, Joyce, Nabokov, Kundera, Soyinka, Ugrešić, Milosz, Stein, Pound, Rushdi, Brecht, Harwood, Skvoretcky, Todorov, Auden.

Whether we agree or not, with the claim that the past century, due to its geopolitical stance, afforded a shift in the mythic understanding of exile as ‘man’s fall from God’s Grace’, and thus reduced the punishment of banishment to a mere East to West dislocation, the notion that writing and exile are almost inextricably linked seems to persist

and with that continue to question the very nature of writing and creation. Namely, as Albahari aptly put it in his ‘The Exiled Fragments’ (2003), ‘an exile, a wanderer, a writer’ all appear to coexist, as synonymous ‘borderers on the same path’.

Yet, I wonder, and with that open the question to the larger audience – which one of the two necessitates the other: does exile (in its widest form, therefore including all forms of expatriation and displacement) condition the act of writing, as a needed attempt to move oneself towards freedom or is writing such a state of creation, primarily a singular solitary experience (both in motion and execution) which compels each writer’s voluntary exile, at least through the linguistic event of ‘putting his words down on paper’?

Etymologically speaking, exile, from its Latin roots, implies a state of flux, a paradoxically dangerous motion of ‘being on the outside of things’, forever looming, wandering, jumping ahead. However, most writers-in-exile and exiled authors, describe their own ‘exiled state’ as a rather passive form, a passive attempt to return to the active presence of ‘living’. Perhaps, indeed, it is this rather impassive life which necessitates the process of writing, as the ‘exile’s’ attempt to ‘live’, to be active and living again. On the other hand, it seems as if, at least to the ‘naked eye’ (and the voracious

reader of texts produced through exile) that there is more to this want to change states: if in fact an exiled life is forcefully nothing but a passive form of being, then what are we to make of bilingualism, i.e., exiled writers, who like Nabokov and Beckett, started multiple ‘linguistic events’, thus creating in more than one language simultaneously, and with great success, ‘words on paper’ which propelled other forms of looming, wandering, jumping ahead, from each and all of us, their readers?

As I have embraced my own life in exile (not through banishment or exclusion), rather a chosen form of living on the outside of my given (home) environment, thus anticipating multiple linguistic events in my near future, I wonder about other writers, out there. Not the famous kind, you see. The published footnotes. My concern lies with the league of extraordinary young men and women whose exiled writing selves are found on the pages of term papers, research abstracts and lengthy tests, at universities abroad, in other words, some of our Alumni. In the case of their writing, call me romantic, I’d like to believe that the writing they produce, though necessitated by the exiled condition in which they dwell as academically displaced people, is mostly an active form, a conscious attempt to live a present life, one of value, one of ethics.

Bela Gligorova



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April Updates: University Acceptances Keep Rolling In!

France

Emilija Markovska, American University of Paris

Germany

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Stefan Ristovski, Jacobs University, Bremen

The Netherlands

Nina Mileva, University College Leiden in The Hague

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Evgenija Tusevska, Roosevelt Academy

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Slovenia

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Matey Nikolov, SUNY Oswego (New York State)

Vjollca Selima, Cardinal Stritch University (Wisconsin)

Olja Simoska, Bard College (New York State)

Olja Simoska, Hampshire College (Massachusetts)

Olja Simoska, Hofstra University (New York State)



Bon Voyage to the class of 2011. The Chronicle uncovers the senior trip itinerary:

Skopje ★ Florence ★ Rome ★ Barcelona ★ Lloret De Mar ★ Cannes ★ Nice ★ Monaco ★ Monte Carlo ★ Milan ★ Venice ★ home