

Announcing Winners of the Academic Excellence Award 2010



The Forerunner Federation USA is pleased to announce and congratulate winners of the Lisa Hvan and Sergei Thai Academic Excellence Award in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Lisa Hvan and Sergei Thai Academic Excellence Award celebrates outstanding teacher student teams and financially supports innovative class projects teaching the love of learning, understanding of research, appreciation of great traditions and respect for people of other cultures. The Academic Excellence Award is designed to bring new energies and funding opportunities to the classroom.

The mission of the Forerunner Federation is advancing just and equitable principles of cultural diversity and promoting minority success in higher education, sciences and influential arts. The Forerunner Federation develops initiatives to defend, support and celebrate small nation and minority cultures worldwide.

The Lisa Hvan and Sergei Thai Academic Excellence Award is designed to show appreciation for academic accomplishments and help reaching stated educational and research goals – says Andrew Balas, President of the Forerunner Federation, Norfolk, Virginia. The competition was open to university professors and high school teachers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sandžak region of Serbia and Montenegro. Only teachers and professors born and currently living in the above listed areas were eligible for application and consideration. Multiethnic teams were particularly encouraged to apply.

Bosnian Sevdalinka and Ilahija as important elements in preserving the beauty of indigenous Bosnian language

Professor Emina Hatunić (Behram Begova Medresa, Tuzla)

Student team: Zinaid Granić, Jusuf Dzafić, Mirnes Hasanović, Mersida Mustafić, Seida Mehmedović and Seljubar Muamer

Amount: \$1,000

Sevdalinka, an original Bosnian love song, and Ilahija, an original Bosnian religious song, present unique cultural phenomena. Investigating, gathering, collecting, teaching, and preserving these types of music will enrich the overall cultural milieu of the world. It is exciting to see interest in such music in the young generation. Reviewers highlighted that the performance of traditional Bosnian music at orphanage homes is valuable, creative, and desirable project. We are pleased to note that, after reviewing the evaluation of all competing proposals, the Board of Trustees of the Forerunner Federation decided to double the monetary award to \$1,000 for this particular project.

Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine-New Horizons

Professors Ismet Gavrankapetanović and Amer Smajilagić (University of Sarajevo)

Student team: Elminela Kendić, Amra Korjenić, Pojskic Mirza, Mario Gućanin Gazibarić.

Amount: \$500

The planned project focuses on an important and innovative area of health sciences, regenerative medicine. Through this summer camp, the team wants to introduce students to this new field in medicine that they didn't have opportunity to fully explore during regular studies. It is intended to be carried out under supervision of the Institute for Scientific Work and Investigation of the Clinical Center University of Sarajevo. Developing a stem cell-related project in Bosnia is commendable and worthy effort. We applaud the project team on introducing the younger generations to this emerging, very promising field.

Video multimedia technologies in music and theatre studies

Professor Dženan Handžić (Medresa "Osman-ef. Redžović", Visoko)

Student team: Ensar Mahmutović, Muhamed Bilćević, Mustafa Karić, Emir Hodžić, Sakib Lepić, Jusuf Korić, Aldin Hasić, S Admir Mustafić,

Amount: \$500

Film industry has always been very popular in Bosnia, and many talents have flourished over the years. Some of them have won highest awards at international film festivals. This is a chance for beginners to introduce themselves to this industry, and hopefully document in this medium some of the Bosnian cultural, natural, and architectural pearls.

Reviewers The Forerunner federation would like to express appreciation for the excellent review work of the International Award Council: Mirsad Hadzikadic, Chair (Charlotte, North Carolina), Kenan Arnautovic (Memphis, Tennessee), Haris Alibasic (Grand Rapids, Michigan), Azra Durakovic (Saint Michael, Minnesota), Azra Terzich (Crestwood, Kentucky).

Legacy This Academic Excellence Award commemorates the aspirations and legacy of Lisa Hvan and Sergei Thai, parents of five university-educated children, from a small, remote farming community in Uzbekistan becoming successful worldwide.