

# ANNUAL REPORT



2020

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# From the President

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) is the most active civil promoter of American educational values and ideals in Kosovo. Many American-Kosovar ventures, businesses, and civil society initiatives came into existence in our campus classrooms and hallways.

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)'s core focus for strategic development is to expand our RIT-accredited academic programs and to increase our personnel and student community from the USA, Kosovo and other international countries. The year 2020 has been a period of unprecedented trials for humanity. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected our lives in unimaginable ways. This crisis has proliferated through the vast majority of Kosovo's businesses and industries, directly affecting employment, wages, and consequently families' ability to continue supporting their children's educational costs.

From the outset of Covid-19, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) has been committed to shielding its community from the pandemic. We have invested heavily to protect the health and safety of our students and employees by implementing infrastructure changes and public health systems necessary to safeguard the well-being of our campus. Likewise, we have successfully and safely sustained our educational and research practices using high-technology communications methods. The safety of our RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) community continues to drive our decisions.

To support our students, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) and its international community joined forces to raise scholarship funds to recognize and support meritorious students from financially diminished backgrounds in Kosovo. In July 2020 RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) announced the establishment of the Biberaj Foundation Inc.

scholarship fund, with the American-Albanian Biberaj family donating \$1.16 Million USD in full-year scholarship awards for 40 students based on merit and need. Kosovo women will make up at least 50% of the beneficiaries of the Biberaj Foundation Inc., scholarship funds. In addition, at least 4 minority students will be the beneficiaries of the Biberaj scholarship.

In spite of the health and economic crises, the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) community remains resilient and our student enrollment rates continue to rise. Our faculty and staff have made many sacrifices to keep serving our students remotely, while fulfilling their own obligations as parents and carers. In the midst of this pandemic I am proud that RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) retained 100% of its staff and that we all continue to address the challenges as one, large, cohesive family. For the upcoming year, we at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) are committed to increasing enrollment rates even further, and to controlling and freezing tuition costs so that education remains affordable for students from all backgrounds. Furthermore, we are committed to expanding our on-campus infrastructure to provide our students with state-of-the-art laboratory and classroom spaces and technologies within an eco-friendly and inclusive campus environment. Our campus is also fully accessible and useable for people with disabilities. At RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), we look forward to a post-pandemic world with great anticipation and excitement. Become part of our community today and Join Us as we continue to light up a new path to a brighter future!

**Kamal Shahrabi, President and Dean of Faculty**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Friends,

This year presented unprecedented challenges for higher education institutions throughout the world. We have seen student lives and communities forever altered by economic uncertainty and unparalleled health crisis. We were reminded as a board of trustees that foundation such as ours exists for times like these. Times defined by crisis and great need.

Yet, the objective evidence is telling us that this is a proud moment in our Institution's history. Our students have shown true dedication to learning and effectively adopted to alternative method of education. Our faculty have successfully adjusted to teaching courses on blended model or fully online. Our administration and staff worked

hard in ensuring that we remained operational at all times. Our Board of Trustees dedicated more volunteering time to go through contingency and recovery plans at times of great uncertainties. And our supporters have shown great solidarity towards our students and our mission through the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund.

Thanks to the overwhelming support we received from the community, we were able to address various student needs and ensure that no meritorious student is left behind due to these changed circumstances. We are proud and of course extremely grateful to be entrusted by the Biberaj Foundation a gift pledge of \$1.16 mil to educate the next 40 success stories in the region. This resilience and philanthropic spirit cannot be found just anywhere. It is greatly treasured by this institution.

Despite the difficult situation we might face due to this pandemic, our resolve to continue the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)'s mission of providing a top-quality American education to the people of Kosovo and the region is even stronger because we see that its impact is even greater than even we understood.

Thank you for the critical role you play in our efforts to lift up our most valued asset – the youth. Their success will be our greatest legacy. As we continue on our journey to a stronger community, we are honored that you have chosen to join us as a partner, supporter and friend.

Yours truly,  
**Ron Cami**

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES





ELVIN  
GURI

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MICHAEL  
E. HESS

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## RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K) WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS WHILE TWO END THEIR TERM

On June 1, 2020, Elvin Guri and Michael Hess join the roster of 16 other members of the Board of Trustees of our non-profit organization dedicated to bringing American higher education to Kosovo.

**Elvin Guri** is an entrepreneur and investor. Currently CEO of Empower Capital, a Jeremie-supported fund investing in Bulgarian lower and mid-market industrial companies. Previously with PwC and EBRD, in 2001-2002 Mr. Guri co-founded JetFinance International, which became the largest consumer finance lender in South East Europe (sold to BNP Paribas Personal Finance in 2007). Among his other recent investments is Telekom Albania, the second largest mobile operator in the country. Elvin has an MBA from the University of Oxford Said Business School. He also supports various educational institutions and initiatives in Bulgaria, Albania and Kosovo.

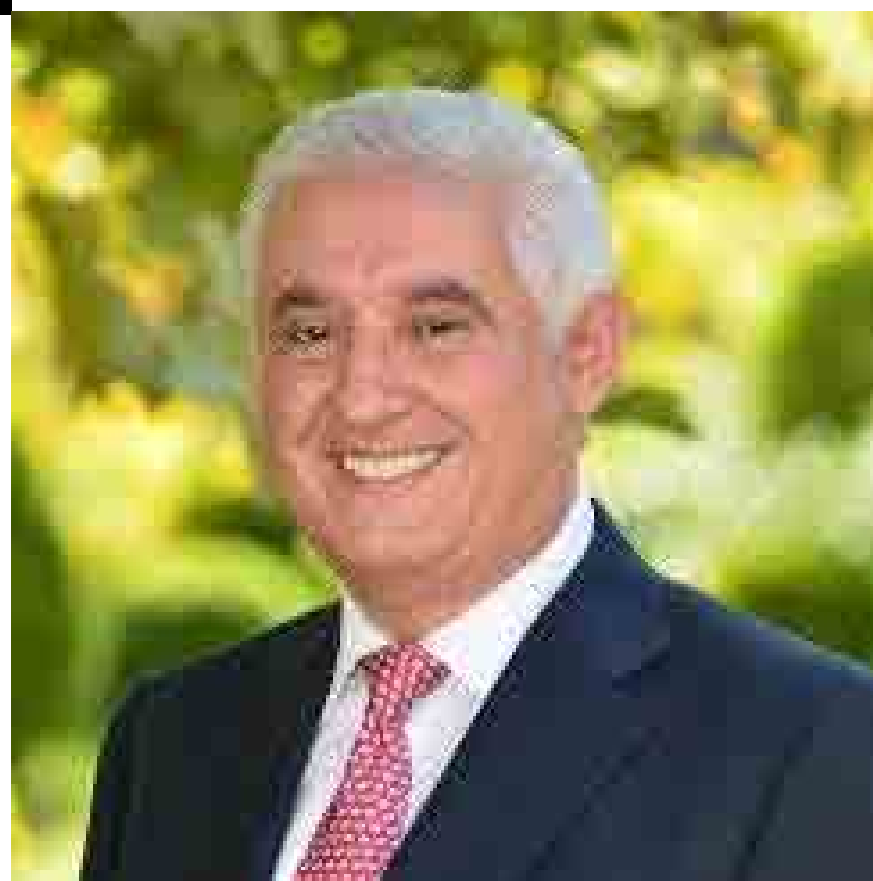
**Michael E. Hess** has been a principal at M&TCH Consulting since Jan. 2012. He served as Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Democracy Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Mr. Hess has over 30 years of active and reserve service in the U. S. Military serving in humanitarian operations in Turkey, Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo. He served in both command and staff assignments in the U.S. and Germany and taught European History at the United States Military Academy (USMA). He was also a banker at Swiss Bank Corp and Citicorp for over fifteen years. Mike has a BA from the USMA at West Point, MBAs from Columbia University and New York University, and is a graduate of the National Strategic Studies Program at the United States Army War College.

## Board Members ending their term:

**Cafo Boga**, a prominent New York businessperson, banker and accountant, of Albanian descent from Montenegro, has ended his term in the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Board of Trustees on June 30, 2020. Mr. Boga has served as the chair of Finance Committee since he joined the Board in 2012 and as Vice Chair of the Board since 2018. During his tenure, Mr. Boga has traveled regularly from the United States to serve on the Board and on various committees, providing counsel, professional insight and financial support to student scholarship.

**Dritan Mezini**, a well-respected entrepreneur in Albania and Kosovo, a member of the board since 2012, has ended his term on June 30, 2020. Mr. Mezini has served in the Finance Committee and volunteered in several ad-hoc committees providing counsel and expertise in enhancing human capital and student life.

For **Mr. Boga** and **Mr. Mezini**, the board of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) unanimously expresses its gratitude and appreciation for their years of dedication, counsel, professional insight and generosity in service to the students, faculty and staff of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), and thereby to the future of the Republic of Kosovo and the entire region.



CAFO  
BOGA

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DRITAN  
MEZINI

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### Board of Trustees

Ronald Cami, Chairman  
Nancy Y. Bekavac, Vice-chair  
Louis D. Sell  
Edmond Coku  
James Myers  
Rezart Spahia  
Bersant Disha  
Jehona Gjugeala  
Ardi Shita  
Jill Adler  
Richard Berman  
Ardian Hasanaj  
Donjeta Sahatciu  
Aferdita Ademi - Osmani  
Christopher D. Thompson  
Yll Zagragja

\* Cafo Boga  
\* Dritan Mezini  
\*\* Elvin Guri  
\*\* Michael E. Hess

\* Term ended June, 2020  
\*\* Term started July, 2020



# Dr. Kamal Shahrabi named NEW PRESIDENT of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)



On Monday, June 1, 2020, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Dr. Kamal Shahrabi as its President. Dr. Shahrabi has served as the Dean of Faculty since 2018, as an Interim President since 2019, and will assume RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)'s top post on July 1, 2020.

"We are thrilled to have a person with Dr. Shahrabi's experience, talent, character and passion leading RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) into the future. He brings an outstanding record of achievement in higher education, and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities to lead RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) forward on its path of success," said Board Chair Ron Cami. "At such a critical time in the College and Kosovo's history, he brings stability, ingenuity, positive energy and a vision that we believe will unite and excite the entire RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) family to grow and continue providing the premier education and experiences that students demand."

Dr. Kamal Shahrabi is a dedicated and very experienced academic leader and professor. We are extremely pleased that he will continue to be part of the RIT global family as the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) President. We have great confidence in Dr. Shahrabi's ability to continue to expand opportunities for students in Kosovo to be part of the RIT global community of innovators, makers, and leaders. Said President of RIT Dr. David C. Munson Jr.

Dr. Kamal Shahrabi has worked in higher education for 35 years and comes to Kosovo from Farmingdale State College, a campus of The State University of New York, where he had served as the Dean of School of Engineering Technology from 2007 to 2017.

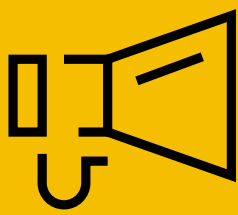
"I am honored and humbled to be selected as RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)'s president, and by the confidence the Board of Trustees is placing in me to continue RITK's progress as one of the best institutions of higher education in the Balkan region," said Dr. Shahrabi. "RITK is such an amazingly strong and energetic institution, and it will have an immense impact on the future of

Kosovo and the region. It is such a privilege to join this very special community in this new capacity and to imagine our work together as we write the next chapter in the life of this remarkable institution."

Dr. Shahrabi's election by the Board of Trustees follows an extensive presidential search that drew a distinctive group of candidates. The process began with community forums that allowed the Board to hear from students, faculty, staff, and trustees about the qualities they were looking for in RITK's next president as well as the challenges and opportunities they see in the coming years. He was confirmed by the Board of Trustees by unanimous vote.

Dr. Shahrabi was with Kean University for more than 20 years as a professor of Electrical Engineering Technology and the Department Chair. In 2007 he joined Farmingdale State College as Dean of the School of Engineering Technology, Director of Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), and the Executive Director of the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Center (RESC). Dr. Shahrabi joined RITK in August 2018 as Dean of Faculty and in May 2019 he was appointed as an Interim President and Dean of Faculty.

Dr. Shahrabi has published several papers in various areas of Communication, Robot Tracking in Space, Wireless Communication, Impact of Globalization of Advanced Telecommunication Technologies in Developing Countries, High Speed Optical Satellite Communication, Femtosecond Pulse Shaping and Renewable Energy. Dr. Shahrabi has several years of experience in the areas of renewable energy, digital signal processing, tracking in space, communication, and satellite control systems. Dr. Shahrabi received a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ, a M.E. Degree in Electrical Engineering from City College in New York, New York, NY, and a M. Phil. and a Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from City University of New York, New York, NY.



## MISSION

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**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



€4.7 Million

in Scholarship from AUKF and  
€1.5 million from donors in Scholarship  
funding awarded to students  
since 2003

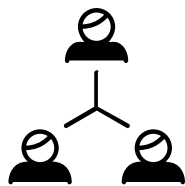


Ranked #1

in student retention among  
RIT campuses worldwide

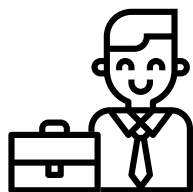
VISION

**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.**



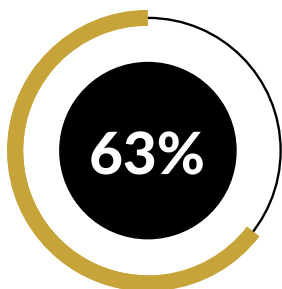
1560 of Alumni

from RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) out of  
135,000 RIT alumni worldwide



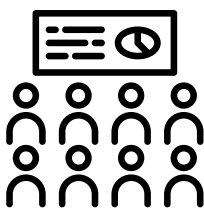
95% of Alumni

are employed



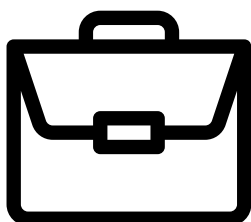
63% of Graduates

who pursued Master's Degrees  
were awarded scholarships



26 students

average classroom size



67% of students

receive job offers while on internship

1:16 Faculty  
to student  
Ratio

## RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K) COMMENCED THE 2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR WITH INCREASED DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS



On September 5, 2020, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) opened its doors for the class of 2023. One hundred and fourteen freshmen students attended the orientation day, where they were greeted by RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Faculty, Staff and student volunteers.

This year's freshmen class is the most academically qualified, with an average score of 83 in TOEFL and the highest math scores of all time. It also has a higher high school GPA, a higher percentage of female students (54%) and the highest diversity in terms of academic goals and respective career paths. This is proof that RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) continues to attract the brightest students in Kosovo and beyond.

Undergraduate students come from all regions of Kosovo, and 7 other countries including United States of America, Canada, Albania, Montenegro, Turkey, Hungary and Malawi.

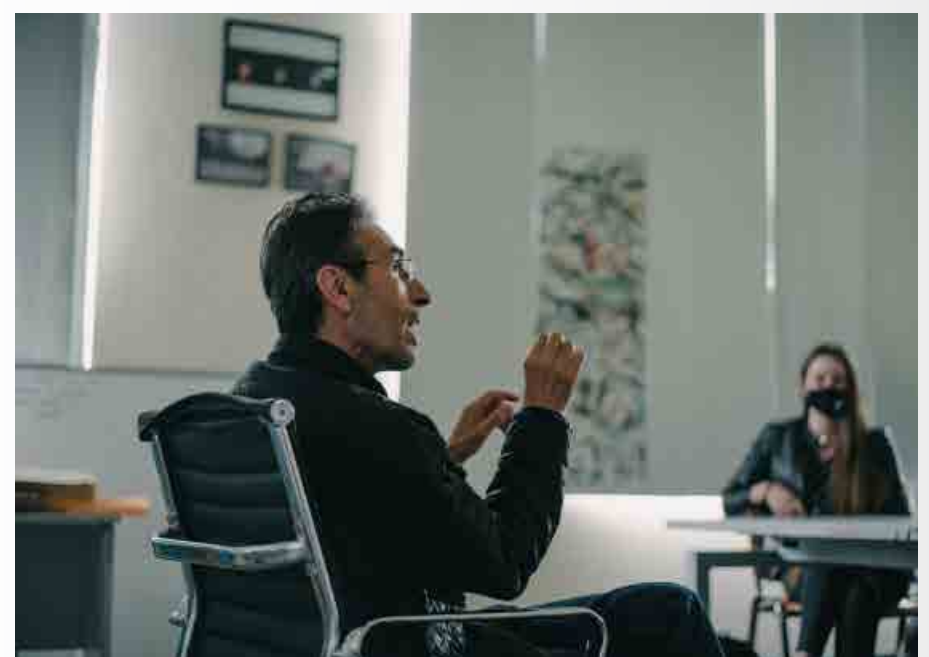




Photo from the Dean's List Recognition for Spring Semester 2019



Photo from the Dean's List Recognition for Fall Semester 2019

## RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K) DEAN'S LIST

The Dean's List at our institution is an academic award, or distinction, used to recognize the highest levels of academic performance demonstrated by our students. While these requirements may differ across institutions, at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are placed on the Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.40GPA; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete", "D" or "F", and if they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours. The Dean's List evaluation occurs at the end of the each semester. Placement on Dean's List is noted on the student's official transcript.

During Fall Semester 2019, 94 students at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) made the Dean's List in comparison to Spring Semester 2019 where 144 students met the criteria to be awarded the Dean's List.





Left to Right: Aurora Buçaj – Senate President, Gerta Ymeri – Project Coordinator, Dion Krapci – Event Coordinator, Endrit Nikqi- Senior Senator, Durim Gjini- Junior Senator, Argjenda Miftari -Head of Interclub Council, Florian Binaku – Project Coordinator, Ardit Gashi – President, Bind Ahmetaj – Secretary, Rina Bulliqi – Vice President, Marson Jakupi- Sophomore Senator, Alejna Mustafa – Project Coordinator, Drin Çela – Head of Academic Affairs, Pellumb Hajdari – Freshmen Senator, Stina Pashoja – Public Relations

## RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K) STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government is a self-governing organization created for and by the students of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). The Student Government works to improve the quality of student life at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) and serves as the instrument through which the student body may collectively influence decisions about student activities, roles, curriculum, and other interests at the institutional level. During the academic year 2019-2020, the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) student government held several activities such as various discussion with guest speakers, study visits, student competitions, as well as keeping the community spirit and solidarity with virtual events during the pandemic.



Student Government of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) was part of the annual Student Government Consortium, hosted this year in Zagreb, Croatia. Student Government leaders from all RIT campuses around the world exchange experiences, share challenges and opportunities to improve the lives of students across campuses.





# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Çlirim Sheremeti** has received the Bruce R. James '64 Distinguished Public Service Award 2020! This award showcases students, hidden heroes in the Rochester Institute of Technology community who perform high levels of public service in their respective countries. Since the establishment of the endowment in 2005, Mr. Sheremeti is the first student from RIT Kosovo to receive the Distinguished Public Service Award. Çlirim (20), apart from being an exceptional student, is also the director of 4-H Kosova, a non-governmental organization that prepares youngsters from all communities in Kosovo for a working life and ensures they have the skills to be citizens of change.



Kosovo's "Management and Entrepreneurship Club" organized a field visit at Fluidi Corporation in Gjilan. Students majoring in Management and Entrepreneurship had the opportunity to visit Fluidi and Floil, two of the largest production companies in Kosovo and the region. The students became familiarized with production processes.

During the pandemic, students on RIT's international campuses in Dubai, Kosovo and Croatia united for an online Global Campus Session, organized by the Student Government presidents of each campus.

Kosovo's "Economists Club" in cooperation with RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Student Government hosted the annual Stand Up Economist show. Students prepared video skits and stand up performances, and used humor to display important economic concepts. The event was held at Innovation Center Kosovo.



The collaborative event held on April 11, 2020, consisted of two hours of online activities with more than 20 students who shared their talents. Dozens more students from five RIT campuses participated, and voted on four activities to share, with the most voted subjects being cooking, live music, a disc jockey battle and standup comedy.

"This was done to help the students from all campuses connect with one another, to help them alleviate boredom and to entertain the students in these stressful times when we cannot meet in person," said Ardit Gashi, president of Student Government at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K).

**Zana Misini**, a student at RIT Kosovo, held an online cooking lesson on April 11.

# A GRADUATION LIKE NO OTHER

There is no more exciting time for a university than graduation day. Graduation represents the culmination of a journey and the attainment of a goal, which bring up feelings of excitement, pride, and anticipation for the students, parents, partners, siblings, grandparents, and our supporters. With the health of our community in mind, at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) maximized physical distance in response to COVID-19 pandemic, and instead, organized the Cheer-Up Commencement Ceremony - a virtual graduation ceremony. While not intended to replace a traditional commencement, this celebration recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of the Class of 2020.

Through a virtual conferring of the degrees, graduating Class of 2020 were recognized for their achievement by RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Interim President & Dean of Faculty, Dr. Kamal Shahrabi, RIT Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs - Ellen Granberg, PhD, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Chairman of the Board of Trustees - Ron Cami, JD, Kosovo's Acting Prime Minister - Albin Kurti, RIT Associate Provost of International Education and Global Programs - Jim Myers, PhD, RIT Dean of University Studies and Executive Director SOIS at RIT - Jim Hall, PhD, RIT Kosovo Valedictorian for Class of 2020 - Ibrahim Jetullahu followed by a congratulatory remarks video prepared from RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Faculty.





# HONOR SOCIETY

The objectives of the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Honors Society are to recognize RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)'s most outstanding students and to promote academic and professional skills as well as civic and institutional involvement. In this sense, members of the Honors Society are expected to demonstrate not only exemplary academic accomplishments but also take a leading role in the advancement of university life and to contribute to the wider community. Students invited into the Honors Society are required to have a cumulative GPA of 3.8 in the spring semester of their Junior Year as well as throughout the remainder of their program at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K).

Honor students are required to conduct an Honors Project during their Senior year of throughout the entire academic year. In addition, they are assigned a full-time faculty member as their project supervisor.

## HONOR SOCIETY PROJECTS

During the Academic year 2019/20, 15 students participated in the honor society led by our faculty Dr. Venera Demukaj. Honors Projects will take a special place of pride in the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Library at the end of each academic year. The Honor Projects for 2020 include:

### Celebrating The Class of 2020

The Challenges of Collecting the Immovable Property Tax: The Case of the Republic of Kosovo

Aghesa Jashari BS '20

**RIT**  
Kosovo



### Celebrating The Class of 2020

School Psychologists Understaffed in High Secondary Education Institutions in Kosovo

Edita Karavidaj BS '20

**RIT**  
Kosovo



### Celebrating The Class of 2020

E-Commerce: Kosovo as a Competitive Landscape for Online Shopping

Rina Bulliqi BS '20

**RIT**  
Kosovo



### Celebrating The Class of 2020

Managerial Practices of Family Owned Businesses in Kosovo

Rrezarta Jahiu BS '20

**RIT**  
Kosovo





**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Women as Entrepreneurs: The hardships of leading in a patriarchal system. Case of Kosovo

Aurora Buçaj BS '20





**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Towards Energy Transformation in Kosovo: Dissecting Discrepancies between Energy Regulation and Implementation

Ardian Kaçaniku BS '20





**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Environmental Sustainability: Kosovo's Waste Management and its Road to Circular Economy

Diella Lulaj BS '20





**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Self-Historization: Kosovo's Visual Arts within Yugoslavia

Hana Halilaj BS '20





**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Freelancing as a Tool of Increasing Women's Activity Rate in Kosovo

Ema Baraku BS '20





**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Corporate Social Responsibility—the New Guide for effective Human Resources Management and Marketing Strategies for Modern Corporations: The Case of Kosova

Ibrahim Jetullahu BS '20





**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Enhancing Energy Efficiency in Kosovo – Analyzing Behavioral Patterns

Vesa Reçica BS '20





**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Start-ups through the lens of Marketing: The importance of Branding for Start-ups and Brand Awareness

Melisa Uka BS '20





**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Social Acceptability of Renewable Energy Technologies in Montenegro: a focus on Wind Power Energy

Raimonda Madzuric BS '20







**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Allocation of Public Expenditures in the post-war Kosovo: A critical analysis

Leonita Krasniqi BS '20







**Celebrating The Class of 2020**

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Gender Based Social Expectations: An analysis of the role of textbooks in elementary school

Gerta Ymeri BS '20





**R·I·T**  
**Kosovo**



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



## **EDMOND MUHAXHERI, PHD - FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE, 2019-20, IOWA, USA**

Professor Muhaxheri's Fulbright Scholar experience revolved largely around being exposed to teaching at one of the top private universities in the mid-west (Drake University, College of Business & Public Administration), and Iowa's leading community college (Des Moines Area Community College). The teaching component was an extension of what professor Muhaxheri has been practicing for over 15 years. Being in America enabled him to draw a direct comparison not just between community colleges and private institutions, but also between RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) and comparable institutions in the US.

Additionally, Professor Muhaxheri was engaged in research, and relationship building, both at national and institutional level, and is experienced in the structure of online course delivery even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.



## **EDONA MALOKU - FACULTY AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR THE PEACE AND CONFLICT SUMMER PROGRAM (PCSP)**

Professor Maloku's research on the role of identification, group and intergroup processes in developing inclusive societies is receiving rapidly growing attention. Dr. Maloku has seven publications: one book chapter, one research report, and five journalistic articles published in key scientific international journals. Her journal publications also include co-authorship at Nature Human Behavior, part of Nature Research Publications - the leading science journal in the world (Publication: A large-scale test of the link between intergroup contact and support for social change. Nature Human Behavior DOI: 10.1038/s41562-019-0815-z).

During this academic year, professor Maloku received over EUR 280,000 research funding in internationally competitive grants that include cross-university collaborations with Queen's University Belfast and University of Birmingham (United Kingdom), and University of Notre-Dame (Lebanon) among others. The grants support building a network of scholars and practitioners to examine the role of education in transforming societies emerging from conflict (funding agency: United Kingdom Arts and Humanities Research Council; reference number: AH/T00813X/1). As part of this work, Edona has been endorsed by Kosovo's Madam President Atifete Jahjaga (2011-2016) as a nominee for the WISE International Education Prize (Qatar) to build school collaboration across the ethnically divided education systems.



# RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K) 2020 PEACE AND CONFLICT SUMMER PROGRAM (PCSP) IN KOSOVO

With the health and safety of all students in mind, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) had to cancel the 2020 Peace and Conflict Summer program after great deliberation and examination of all possibilities. For over a decade, the PCSP has been providing a high quality, fully accredited summer program, taught by a mix of former officials, academic specialists, and NGO activists. Students from Kosovo, the surrounding region, Europe, and from the United States, receive hands-on training and experiential learning in subjects of critical importance for mutual understanding and reconciliation in this zone of former conflict. Participants in the PCSP increase their understanding of the dynamics of conflict and peace, increase awareness about US foreign policy and public diplomacy, expand their networks and have fun in a safe, multicultural environment. The program focuses on the background to Balkan and



other conflicts of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, on the dynamics of ending armed conflict and on continuing challenges to conflict transformation and development.

Archive: \*Former President of Kosovo Atifete Jahjaga delivered the commencement speech at the graduation ceremony for RIT-Kosovo (AUK)'s unique Summer Program in Peace and Conflict Studies on July 25, 2019

## IN MEMORIAM



### LEONARD ROY HAWLEY (LEN); 1947 – 2020

Colonel Leonard "Len" R. Hawley died at Walter Reed Medical Center on July 12, 2020 from complications of leukemia. He dedicated the last 25 years of his life to working with domestic institutions in US to resolve international crises peacefully. He co-edited "The Quest for Viable Peace", published in 2005, a ground-breaking book on post-conflict interventions which is still in print.

He was adjunct faculty at the University of Maryland and RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) in Peace and Conflict Summer Program. He was a great supporter and mentor to his colleagues, friends and students; taking every opportunity to promote their achievements. He always sought understanding and was an engaged listener. Len was quick to praise and show appreciation. He inspired people to meet challenges and do their best. He laughed often. He will be greatly missed by the students, colleagues and the whole RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) community.





## RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K) INTRODUCES A UNIQUE MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) brought to Kosovo the RIT's unique Master of Science Program in Professional Studies. This program focuses on Strategic Foresight and Innovation, and has a complimentary Project Management MicroMasters® component.

Upon formally announcing this program, the President and Dean of Faculty at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), Dr. Kamal Shahrabi stated: "Success in this century requires people who are innovative thinkers and problem solvers that have evolved their skills in the digital space; it requires people who are accustomed to working without a blueprint, and whose broad industry experience is complemented by content and strategy development, diversity of thinking, and by strong project management and people skills. For this reason, at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) we are instating a Master of Science Program in Professional Studies that equips students with a critical mix of skills and whose contributions, insights and forward thinking with a global perspective will create extraordinary value for any organization in Kosovo and beyond"



The overarching program goal is to produce leaders who are capable of anticipating market developments and emerging trends, and applying foresight methods and the associated insights to successful project and program implementation. The program will enable businesses, organizational leaders and other professionals to improve their strategic thinking and planning, and to improve the way they make future-related decisions and adapt for change. Program participants will also be able to develop professional expertise in terms of managing and leading future foresight and strategic planning projects with the completion of RIT's Project Management MicroMasters® component which is a complementary part of this new Master of Science program.





## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (CIT)

Across the globe, Computing and Information Technology (CIT) is permeating and transforming the economy, the public sector and all other aspects of society. This trend towards digital transformation has put IT sector promotion as a top priority on the agendas of many governments. The Kosovo government has recognized the strategic importance of the IT industry for economic development and structural transformation towards a knowledge-based economy. Consequently, the government of Kosovo officially declared the IT industry a high priority sector for its economy.

To prepare the necessary human capital needed to drive the industry forward, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) has accredited and validated the RIT's Bachelor of Science in Computing and Information Technologies (CIT) to be offered in Kosovo starting fall of 2021.

A defining aspect of the computing and information technologies curriculum is the breadth of technologies and the focus on integration. Students learn how to solve problems and find ways to make it work. Course work prepares students to be not just technical wizards, but also communicators and facilitators, enabling them to be successful throughout their career. Building on the core courses, students can further their skills in two separate areas or establish even greater depth in a single area. Possible areas of concentration include web administration, database, networking and communications, web development, and



enterprise administration. The major requires students to complete two blocks of cooperative education. Students may pursue co-op placements after completing their second year of study.

The computing and information technologies degree is offered at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), RIT's main campus, in Rochester, NY, and at RIT Croatia's campuses in Dubrovnik and Zagreb. Because the same curriculum is offered in all three locations, students may spend a semester abroad learning about the United States or Croatian culture without any negative impact to their schedule of studies. Furthermore, in their senior year all students take Senior Development Project I,II (ISTE-500, 501), a year-long course in which teams are composed of students from RIT's main campus, RIT Croatia campuses and RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) campus. Whether students choose to study abroad or remain in Kosovo, they will be working side-by-side with their peers from across the world.



# RESEARCH CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) announced the establishment of the Research Center for Human Rights (RCHR) on end of July 2019. The RCHR promotes and advances interdisciplinary research in the field of human rights. The study and promotion of human rights is considered a valuable service to the community and a means to encourage and empower, in particular, vulnerable and marginalized groups to improve their position in society and, in general, to support rule of law and good governance in a democratic and multi-ethnic society.

The RCHR serves as an academic platform to bring together faculty, students, researchers, policy-makers and the general public to critically discuss public policies as to their conformity with international human rights standards and to assist in designing policies which reflect and promote human rights.

Two projects, which took place during the academic year 2019/20, are highlighted in this report.



## Research Center for Human Rights publishes “What are my Rights and How do I Enforce Them

“What are my rights and how do I enforce them?” is a brochure prepared by the RIT Kosovo Research Center for Human Rights with the support of the USAID funded 'Justice Matters' Project. The brochure provides essential information on human rights in Kosovo and which institutions are responsible for enforcing them. Its purpose is to raise awareness about human rights and about the respective institutions and about the procedures that can be pursued in the event of violations of human rights. Defending human rights is a civic duty and knowledge about human rights is the first step towards effective human rights protection and accountable government.



## "Transitional, Post-Transitional and Strategic Narratives about the Yugoslav Wars: from Wars and Search for Justice to Geo-Political Power Games"

was a two day conference organized by "The Geoffrey Nice Foundation" in cooperation with "Research Center for Human Rights" held on November 22-24, 2019 at the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Auditorium. The conference speakers included (in order of presentations) Sir. Geoffrey Nice, Nevenka Tromp, Iain Bonomy, Carole Hodge, Frederik Harhoff, Sunčana Roksandić, Sonja Biserko, Hilmi Jashari, Albin Kurti, Robert Muharremi, Gjylieta Mushkolaj, Visar Morina, Furtuna Sheremeti, Kreshnik Gashi, Daniel Serwer, Valery Perry, Gëzim Visoka and Aidan Hehir. The conference included a field trip to Reçak/Račak massacre site and the private screening of the film "The Marriage" with Blerta Zeqiri, the director of the film.

The Research Center for Human Rights at RITK is co-directed by Dr. Albina Balidemaj and Dr. Robert Muharremi.



## HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES BY THE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (TDI)

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Training and Development Institute (TDI) 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. In addition to training programs in the IT and Management discipline, TDI has also implemented several Human Capacity Development projects.



### EMPOWER PRIVATE SECTOR RED-T PROGRAM

132 youth received certificates for the completion of our EMPOWER Private Sector RED-T program in September of 2019. The youth from the municipalities of Gjilan, Hani i Elezit, Kacanik, and Viti completed classroom-based education training in soft skills, sales and customer care and ECDL Base Module and specialized on pieces of training in either language or ICT. Implemented by RIT Kosovo's A.U.K - Training and Development Institute the program aimed to improve the ICT and language skills of the youth to enable them to find employment in both the ICT and the Call Center industries. In partnership with Sida - Styrelsen för Internationellt Utvecklingssamarbete and Municipality of Gjilan, Viti, Kacanik and Hani i Elezit.

### GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR SUCCESSFUL KOSLIFT STUDENTS

First batch of student beneficiaries of the KosLift project, on 12th of December 2019, received their certificates for having completed their training program in the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) R&D Lab. These students successfully completed 11 online courses, which focused on soft skills, management, research, programming and design. Afterwards, the same students joined the specific training in the R&D Lab at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). The intensive training program included the following courses: JAVA Programming, Android App Development, Web Development, Prototyping, Data Analytics and Visualization, Social Media and Marketing and Project Management.

KosLift project aims to increase the capacities and skills of students of the University of Prishtina and RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) by providing free online courses, specialized training sessions in the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) R&D Lab, and small grants that students can use to solve practical challenges experienced by local businesses in Kosovo.

KosLift is supported by the Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo and is implemented by IPKO Foundation and RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). More information about the project can be found at [www.koslift.org](http://www.koslift.org)





## YOUTH CAREER IT PATHWAY- YCIP PROJECT

The Training and Development Institute is determined to continue implementing Human Capacity Development projects that help youth develop the skills and knowledge based on the local market demand and increase their employment opportunities.

YCIP project included more than 2,000 hours of training, and certification of over 170 professional profiles on Java Programming & Advanced Java Programming, Web Programming Front End & Back End, Android™ ATC, IT Essentials/Internet of Things/Intro to Security, CCNA 1-4 Routing and Switching, and Social Media and Marketing. The graduation ceremony of the YCIP Project graduates was held in December, 2019.

This grant was funded by the project 'Luxembourg support for civil society in Kosovo', financed by the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and managed by the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF).



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## Ben Dobroshi (Alum '13)

Start-up entrepreneur brave opening the PLATFORM business amid pandemic

For Ben, the two co-ops that were mandatory to complete at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), shaped his passion on the field of Marketing & Communications. After graduating from the Bachelor program in 2013, Ben joined two companies where he worked as a Chief Operating Officer and Head of Marketing.

The pandemic has changed the way businesses operate; for Ben, it was the break he needed to do something to put his entrepreneurial education in action. Instead of standing by and watching the economic collapse amid pandemic, Ben founded PLATFORM, a one-stop-shop for marketing solutions. Specializing in strategy, creative, digital, production, media, and events; Ben opted to work with on-field experts & freelancers in specialized areas, rather than

have full-time staff. Adapting to the current climate, this approach would prove to be cost-effective to both the client and the agency, most of the work can be done online, while the quality of work can remain at the highest level.

"It has been four months since I founded PLATFORM, and I could not be happier! I honestly believe that my education at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) has given me the tools for success in making a big business impact."

## Gojart & Drenas Shaqiri (Alum '08 & '12)



"My brother and I came to AUK because it matched our studying profile, which other universities in Kosovo didn't offer. We have great memories of AUK, memories that will last us a lifetime. AUK gave us the tools to success and today we are a living proof of that success" - Gojart Shaqiri '08, - Entrepreneurship and Management, Public Policy Minor

Twelve years ago, Gojart joined the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Community and soon after, in year 2012, his brother Drenas followed. They have both excelled in their studies at RIT Kosovo and today they lead a large team of young Kosovars under the age of 28. Their passion was to pursue a business career and twelve years later here they are. Their first business opened its doors in January 2009 and since then AZTECH has become a leader in electronics retailer in

Kosovo. AZTECH has 18 stores in 10 different cities in Kosovo, and offers a warm working environment that allows young people of Kosovo to learn and train while working there.

In October 2019, the brothers invested in another huge project, bringing in entertainment attraction and experience to the city of Prizren. They established the Galeria Shopping Mall that helped the local economy and employed more than 1500 people. Gojart and Drenas are highly committed young individuals and great contributors in boosting productivity in the long-term local economy and unemployment.

"Supporting our community is very important to us and we are willing to do all it takes for the country we call home, Kosovo" - Drenas Shaqiri '12 - Management - Media and Graphic Design Minor

ALUMNI IN BUSINESS





## The U. S. Military Academy at West Point Class of 2020 include Sgt. Maj. Arelena Shala, RITK Alumni ('16)



RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Alum of Class of 2016, Arelena Shala, has graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as part of the collaboration between Kosovo Security Force and U.S. Military Academy.

Now she continues her two-year specific studies in the field of national and international security at Stanford University, USA, to return after completion to serve the country, respectively Kosovo Security Force.

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) partners with Kosovo Security Force to provide civilian education to KSF cadets in the military academy. Each year, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) graduates 10-15 FSK cadets.

ALUMNI IN MILITARY

\* The U. S. Military Academy at West Point, founded in 1802, is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. Its mission remains constant—to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the U. S. Army.

## Xhevahir H. Hasanaj, Alum ('15) with Distinguished Award from U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School

Alum, Lieutenant Hasanaj has recently graduated as a Civil Affairs Officer from Special Warfare Center and School "John F. Kennedy" in USA and achieved the "Distinguished Honour Graduate".

We are proud to have been a part of the journey towards the success of our FSK Cadet Alums



## Four RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Alumni sworn in to the VII Legislature of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo

Four RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Alumni were elected to serve in the 7th legislature of the Assembly of the Republic Kosovo in the 2019 general elections. They swore in to assembly on December 2019 and have been serving as MP ever since.

All serve in various parliament committees. Hekuran is serving on the "Committee on Budget and Transfers" and "Committee on Economy, Employment, Trade, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Strategic Investments". Ariana is serving on the "Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora". Ilir is serving on the "Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Infrastructure and the Environment" and Yllza is serving on the "Committee on Budget and Transfers."

Upon their swearing in, President and Dean of Faculty, Dr. Kamal Shahrabi said "I want to congratulate all of our alumni on their election successes and wish them the best of luck with their terms and appointments in the new government. I am pleased to see that our Alumni are making a significant contribution in the Kosovo's economic and social transformation".





Meliza Haradinaj Stublla (Alum '07)  
Stublla – Minister  
of Foreign Affairs  
and Diaspora in Kosovo



On June 2020, Meliza Haradinaj Stublla (BSc '07) has been appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of Republic of Kosovo. Since her college years, Meliza worked in different governmental and municipal roles, where she built relationships with multiple policy stakeholders, community leadership, ensured citizen participation in decision-making and carried out difficult research and analysis on some pressing policy issues. "RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) provided world class education for my generation, without having to go abroad" said Meliza, "and this opportunity has also helped me build my career path and a vision for the future I want for myself in Kosovo, while being guided by one of the most prominent foreign and local professors and mentors."

Meliza started her political career while in college in 2006. In 2009 Meliza was elected as a Councillor in the Municipal Council of Prishtina, while in 2012 she completed her postgraduate studies in Diplomacy –from the University of Oxford on a UK Chevening Scholarship. In 2013, Meliza founded the Kosovo Institute of Diplomacy being engaged primarily in promoting and advancing Kosovo's state interests in international settings. "My time at RIT Kosovo has prepared me with a set of values required to thrive and flourish in any career path or duty, and that is the constant acquisition of knowledge, uninterrupted challenge of thoughts and ideas, and continuous critical thinking. These have shaped my personality, and expanded new professional horizons, which in any way do not end with the position of Kosovo MFA. The future is out there waiting for us to explore and grasp all opportunities, to be able to help Kosovo build and maximize its full potential."

Kreshnik Bekteshi (Alum '08) –  
Minister of Economy  
in North Macedonia



Kreshnik Bekteshi (BSc '08) was appointed Minister of Economy in the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in the year 2017, and reappointed in 2020. He is an untiring advocate of economic reforms and committed in securing development opportunities, new employment opportunities and higher living standards to the citizens of Republic of North Macedonia.

Kreshnik started his political career in 2011 where he served as Head of the International Office of the Agency for Foreign Direct Investment and Export Promotion of the Republic of Macedonia in Brussels (Belgium) and in Bern, Switzerland. As part of his working position, he facilitated Macedonian companies in pursuing joint business cooperation with Belgian and Swiss companies. "Through the study programs at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), I developed skills that have impacted my professional life and supported my rise to the top levels of the national leadership of the Republic of Northern Macedonia". Kreshnik Bekteshi

# BIBERAJ FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

The Biberaj Family Scholarship is made possible through the generous pledge of \$1,160,000 by The Biberaj Foundation Inc.

The competitive Biberaj Family Scholarship provides for a total of 40 scholarship awards, granted over four years, to students with strong academic records and demonstrating financial need. Thirty-six of the scholarship awards will be granted to students of Albanian descent from Tropoja, Plava, Gucia, Presheva, Tetova, Shkup, and rural parts of Kosova, and four to students from non-majority communities in Kosova. It is the goal of the Biberaj Family Scholarship to grant a minimum of fifty percent and up to seventy-five percent of the scholarships to women. Preference in receiving a scholarship will be given to students interested in Science, Engineering, Technology, Math and Journalism concentrations.

## Scholarships by Region

Biberaj Family Scholarship for:	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Tropoja	2	2	3	3	10
Plava & Gucia	2	1	1	1	5
Presheva	2	1	1	1	5
Tetova & Shkup	1	1	1	2	5
Rural Areas in Kosova	2	3	3	3	11
Minorities in Kosova	1	1	1	1	4
Total	10	9	10	11	40

Mr. Ken Biberaj, a spokesman for the Biberaj Foundation stated that, “The Biberaj Foundation is proud to support this innovative and exciting program. Like countless other families that immigrated to the United States, our family is very appreciative of the opportunities that America has given us and of the success we have achieved. This scholarship aims to provide a truly global experience for these young people, with a strong emphasis on women and on students prioritizing course work in science, engineering, technology, math and journalism.”



## ABOUT THE BIBERAJ FOUNDATION INC.

The Biberaj Foundation Inc, founded as a not-for-profit in 2017, provides educational opportunities for qualified students of Albanian descent, living in the Balkans, to receive scholarship assistance for study in undergraduate and graduate programs leading to a degree at United States colleges and universities.



# FUNDRAISING DINNER IN NEW YORK



On November 14, 2019, the American University in Kosovo Foundation, Inc. held its annual fundraising dinner in New York, at the Gordon Reading Room of the Harvard Club of New York City.

This fundraising event that called for "Supporting Kosova's Next Success Story" was a great opportunity for the Albanian diaspora and other friends in United States to learn

about RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), its mission, its outstanding student success, its impact in the country and how they can help RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) to continue offering an unparalleled high-quality American education in Kosovo. Over 80 supporters and friends of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) from USA and Kosovo participated in this event to show their support to RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) mission.

## SHKRELI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

The "Shkreli Family Scholarship" is funded by Mr. Martin Shkreli, President of "Alba Construction", a company that offers Construction Management and Post Construction Services in the greater New York metropolitan area. At the recent fundraising event held in New York on November 14, 2019, the Chairman of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Board of Trustees, Mr. Ron Cami, thanked Mr. Shkreli for sponsoring the event that calls to create "New Success Stories" in Kosovo and the region. "It is sponsors like Martin that bring us closer to our dream to create the critical mass with American education that will make that part of the world more prosperous,"

stated Mr. Cami.

We are so fortunate to be able to support RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) with the funds going directly to students who need them the most," said Mr. Martin Shkreli. The "Shkreli Family" Scholarship Fund joined the "Lukaj Family" Scholarship Fund this academic year to support students from Ulqin and vicinity to attend RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). Scholarship recipients for this academic year include Raimonda Maxhuriq (sophomore), Drilon Perashi (freshman), Arjon Osmanoviq (freshman) and Elvedin Maxhuriq (freshman).



# XHORSI LEKA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Xhorsi Leka Memorial Scholarship fund has been established at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), in honor of Xhorsi Leka, to support talented young minds from Albania that wish to pursue their studies at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). Xhorsi Leka was a young man from Tirana, Albania who touched the lives of everyone he met with His selflessness, loving character and lively personality. Xhorsi was beloved by his classmates, his teachers and all who know him. Sadly, in 2012 at the age of sixteen, Xhorsi was the victim of a tragic accident, which took his life and interrupted his dreams of completing his high school education and attending college. To honor Xhorsi and express their eternal love for him, the Leka, Cami, and Metaj families and other friends have established this Memorial Scholarship Fund in Xhorsi's memory, to honor his passion for learning and to help deserving students from Albania fulfill their dreams and attain a higher education.



The scholarship ideators, Eva and Amy Cami, who are preparing to pursue higher education themselves stated: "We wish to honor Xhorsi's memory through this scholarship as well as help deserving students fulfill their dreams of continuing their education at a prestigious university. RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) has a well-earned reputation for rigorous academics and has had a strong impact for Albanians in the Balkans". For the 2019/2020 academic year, the winner of the Xhorsi Leka Memorial Scholarship is Ms. Arsida Basha!

## ARTAN VENHARI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



The Artan Venhari Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), in honor of Artan (1974-2019), a beloved friend to many, who lost his life in a paragliding accident near Prizren, Kosova on September 7, 2019. At the request of Artan's wife and RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) alum Ms. Hana Xhemajli, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) established a public campaign fund to collect contributions from the community to create a scholarship that will support talented young students with demonstrated financial need to study Governance and Public Policy at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). "Nothing gave Artan a greater pleasure than solving pressing social issues," said Hana Xhemajli. "He took tremendous delight in talking with various people from all walks of life, facilitating dialogue and proposing creative solutions to solving social and policy related problems". The "Artan Venhari Memorial Scholarship" was supported by 75+ donors, amassing a total of \$13,271 in scholarship funds. After screening and evaluating of all eligible applicants in June, 2020, the scholarship committee has selected two junior year students that met all specified criteria and displayed remarkable academic achievement and motivation: Diellza Kryeziu and Arti Zabërgja.





# BONEVET SCHOLARSHIP

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) in partnership with “Unë e Du Kosovën” Foundation have established the “BONEVET Scholarship”, four-year scholarship covering 80% of tuition, to support talented yet economically disadvantaged students from BONEVET network to pursue education at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K).

Mr. Vllaznim Xhiha and Mrs. Nita Xhiha, established the foundation in 2008 to encourage the citizens of Kosovo to engage in social projects related to advancing education, promoting arts and crafts and developing sports abilities. The foundation established the first “Makerkids-Makerspace” named BONEVET in 2014 in Gjakova, with a project-based-learning curriculum, enabling children and students to exercise the power of thought, the power of imagination and the power of creativity. Vllaznim and Nita, as the supporters of BONEVET, believe that “opening doors for deserving and underprivileged youth of Kosovo is possible through patience, confidence, and through much more involvement from each and every citizen of Kosovo” and that “Kosovo is in desperate need for a well-educated youth, who will transform natural and human resources into an area of higher productivity and greater yield, to increase the well-being and attractiveness of Kosovo”. The gifts on this scholarship scheme are a continuation of that commitment to advancing education and nurturing future leaders of Kosovo. The scholarship recipient for academic year 2020-21 is Lumi Zhubi.



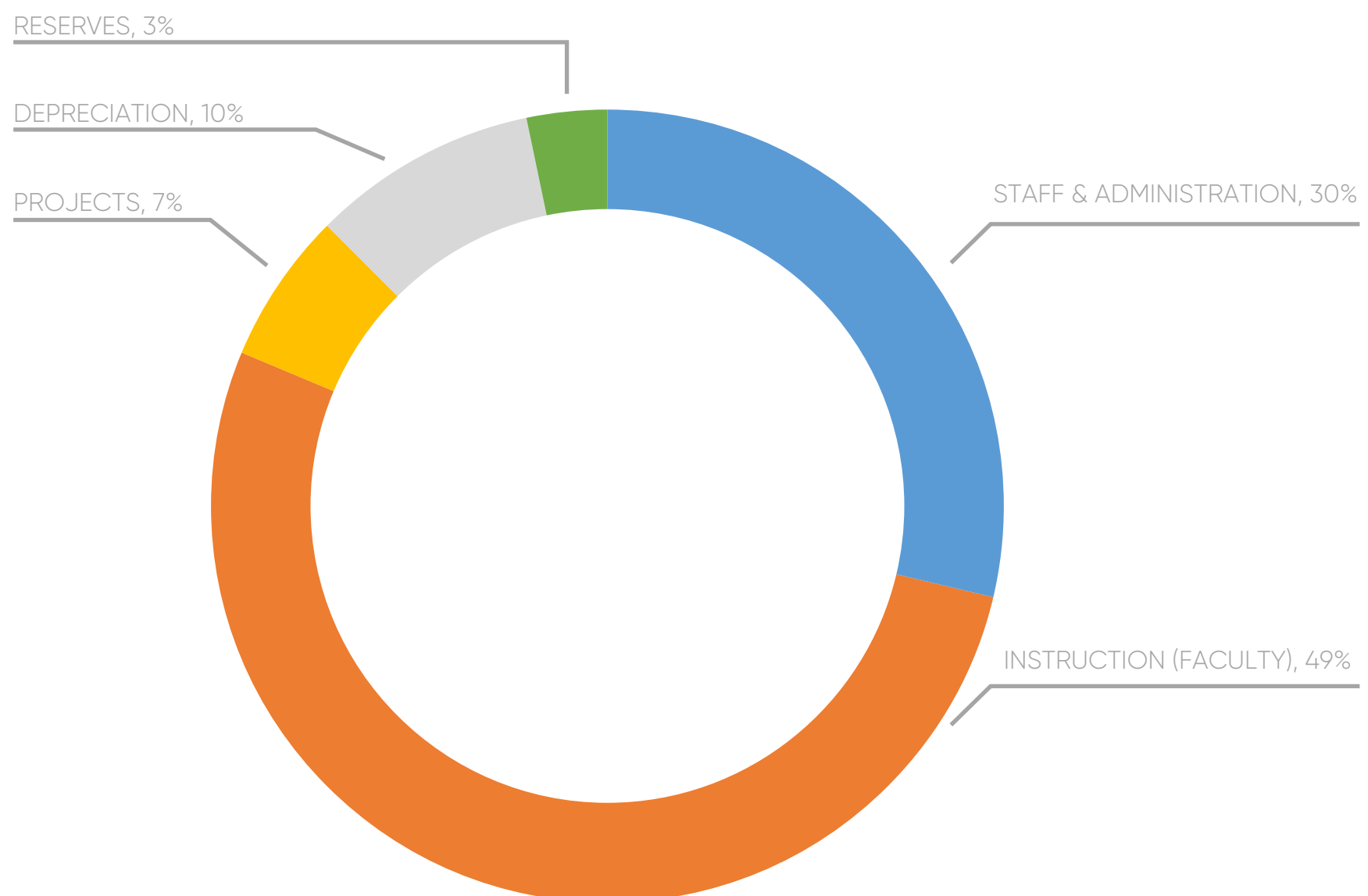
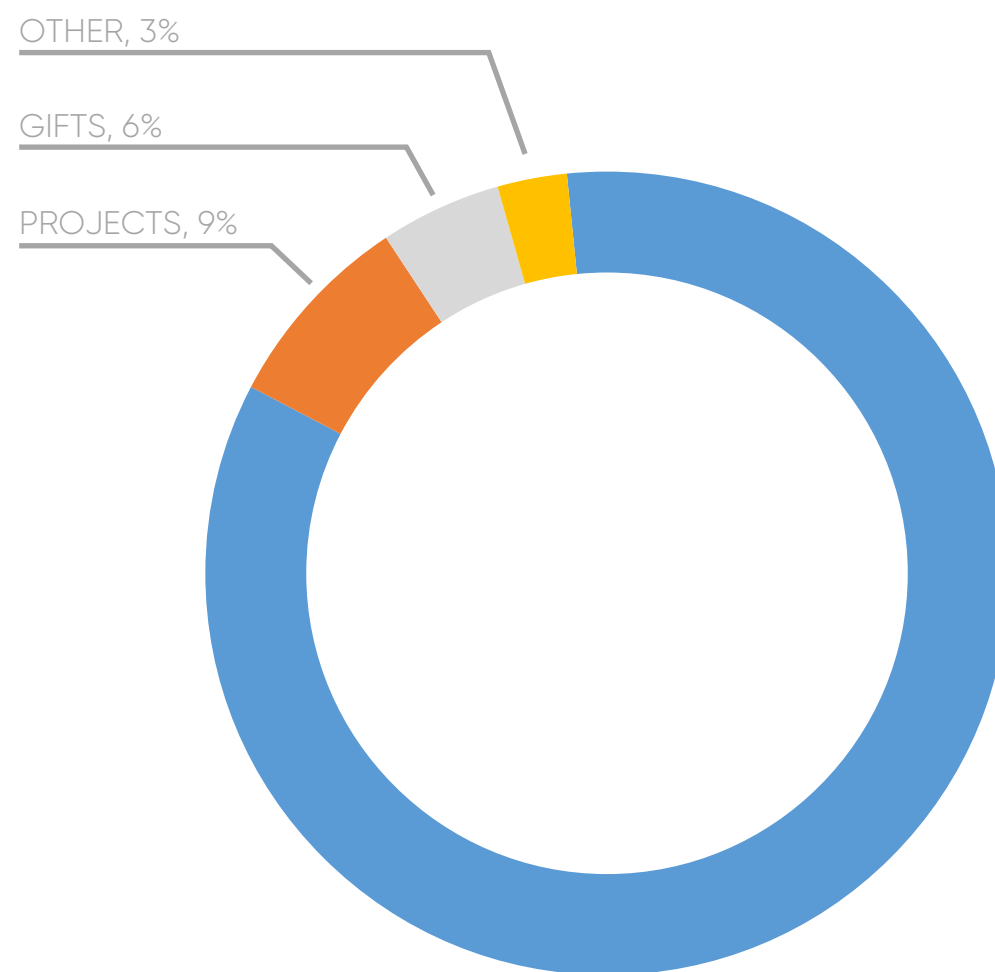
## RALITSA AND ELVIN GURI SCHOLARSHIP

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) is pleased to announce the establishment of “Ralitsa and Elvin Guri” Scholarship Fund for talented, low-income students with high potential. The scholarship fund was made possible thanks to the generosity and gift pledge of 30,000 Euro over the next three years of Mr. Elvin Guri and his wife Ms. Ralitsa Agayn-Guri, who believe in the transformative power of education.

“Supporting quality education for Albanian youth, especially those from Kosova, North Macedonia, and Montenegro, has been one of my life’s goals,” said Mr. Guri. The scholarship recipients for academic year 2020-21 include: Freshmen: Luljeta Gashi, Arlind Shefiku, Denik Agushi, Dea Nixha and Dea Nuhiu; Existing: Enxo Mucaj, Ujvara Fetoshi, Nita Guri, Donjeta and Leonita Morina.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

TOTAL REVENUES EUR 2.88M



USES OF FUNDS EUR 2.88M



# DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND THE FUTURE

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) plans to broaden the academic offering, conduct more research, strengthen relationships with the local community, continue to promote civic engagement that is inclusive of diversity of culture, thought, and perceptions, and increase enrollment while maintaining quality. This will necessitate implementation of new scholarship and financial aid packages, support for faculty led and student engaged research, expansion and upgrade of facilities and labs to accommodate program innovation, expansion, and student engagement.

You can support this future and our mission by contributing to one of the following institutional advancement priorities:

## SUPPORTING OUTSTANDING TALENT AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE

At RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), we believe that if students have the determination, intelligence, and drive, their financial circumstances should not prevent them from attending the college of their choice. Our founders understood that a campus should consist of exceptional students regardless of their economic status. In addition, we seek to diversify our campus with more local students from non-majority communities, underrepresented municipalities and with international students. Over 17 years later, our ability to attract the top talent from any and all backgrounds is still a key strength of RIT Kosovo (A.U.K).

Your support helps us bring them here – and keep them here. You can help broaden and enrich the opportunities our students have by Supporting Outstanding Talent and Student Experience. You can:

- **Make a donation to RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) General Scholarship Fund**
- **You can support a specific established Named Scholarship Fund – for full lists visit [website](#)**
- **Select and Support a student for work-and-study abroad program**
- **Support a student club or student project**
- **Establish you own Named Scholarship at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)**

Endowed undergraduate scholarships are a wonderful way to honor your family or recognize someone special. Endowment gifts may be pledged over a number of years and may be funded through cash gifts as well as planned or deferred gifts.

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Unrestricted donation towards the endowment fund support the people, programs, and activities of the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) in perpetuity. Growth of the endowment through investment return and your giving enables RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) to provide scholarship to students, build faculty excellence, launch new programs and support a wide range of important needs. Furthermore, it builds RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) abilities to address all expenses, planned and unforeseen, in times of unstable external environment such as the one the world experienced with this new pandemic.



# SUPPORTING RESEARCH, NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSORSHIPS

Research enhances critical thinking, collaboration and cross-disciplinary learning and therefore fosters and enhances the overall quality of the academic and educational experience. RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) strives to increase its student-centered research that promotes the participation of faculty and students on funded research teams. As Kosovo lacks significantly in research capacities, funding for RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) will help us to lead new discoveries in this country, and then to translate research into practical applications that will drive talent development and economic growth in Kosovo. Our research focus is in the areas of Energy, Environment, Policy Development, Security, Business, Management and Technology while remaining vigilant to changes in market trends and emerging new industries. Furthermore, we collaborate with the public and private sectors to provide interdisciplinary research and development. To meet Kosovo's strategic priorities and address the shortages of the labor market skills, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) is launching a new degree bachelor program

in Communication Information Technology and plans to develop a new Bachelor Degree Program in Electrical Engineering Technology. To establish these programs at a globally-competitive level, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) needs support to launch Electrical Engineering laboratories on our campus, equipped with cutting-edge equipment and learning tools to support these programs.

Recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty to lead academic programs is a priority for RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). Endowed positions reflect our commitment to the highest echelons of an academic discipline. They attract leading global scholars who, in turn, attract top faculty and students. For faculty, endowed positions further emphasize the value of the excellence of one's work and demonstrate to other faculty members that exceptional work is rewarded by the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) community. The market for outstanding faculty is intensely competitive.

## Your gift can help:

- Support a student centered research project
- Support the development of a new academic curriculum
- Support a Distinguished Professorship

Endowed faculty positions are a wonderful way to honor your family or recognize someone special. Endowment gifts may be pledged over a number of years and may be funded through cash gifts as well as planned or deferred gifts.

## Campus Transformation

The municipality of Prishtina has granted a 50-year free of charge and exclusive lease to RIT Kosovo (A.U.K). As part of a wide-ranging master plan, RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) plans to increase its student centered vibrant physical facilities and implement a series of

renovations and revitalization of existing learning environments - modernizing classrooms and laboratories, improving safety and accessibility, and creating student-centric spaces where collaboration, and research can take place.

**Donors that wish to fully-fund the construction and functionalization of our new multi-purpose building will have full naming rights to the building, its hallways, specific areas and lounges.**



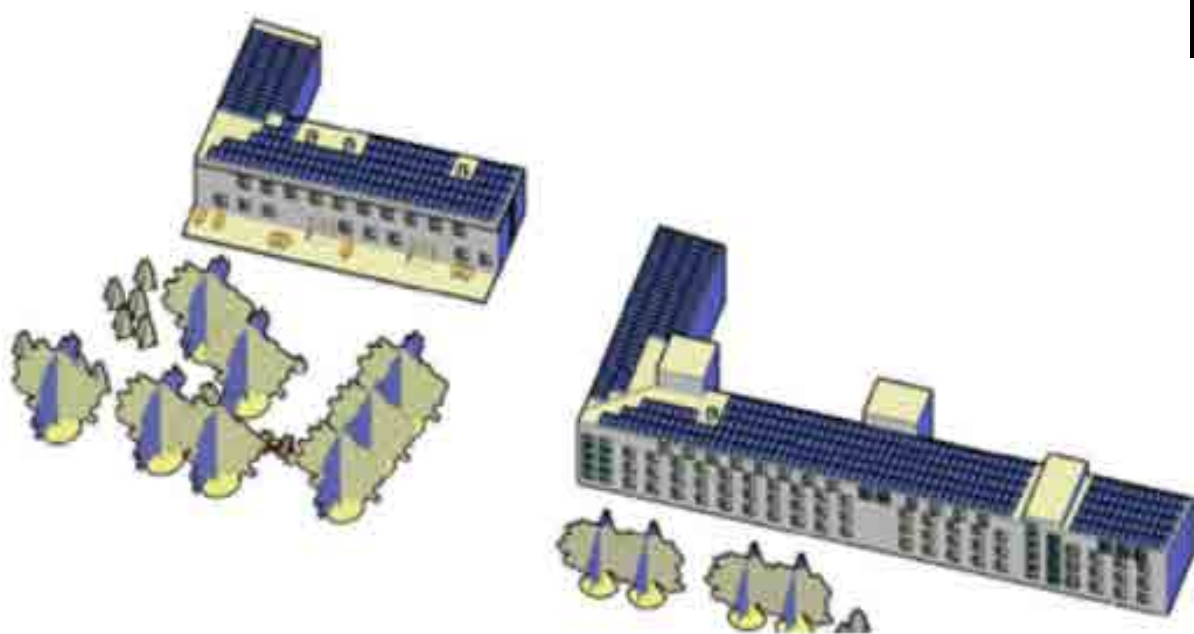


## CONSTRUCT AND EQUIP THE STUDENT CENTER AND DORMITORY

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) CAD building will become the flagship academic building in all of Kosovo. The architectural beauty of the new IPCS building will symbolize a changing of the times, a leap into a new era of inspiration and expectation for our cadre, students and from Kosovo's general population alike. The CAD will be the vehicle through which RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)'s Peace and Conflict Studies Program (PCSP) and Research Center for Human Rights (RCHR) greatly enhance enrollment rates, and number of annual activities and engagement counters with students from the US, Kosovo and further abroad. The CAD will strengthen and expand RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)'s catalytic platform for encouraging and nurturing mutual understanding between the American and Kosovar people. This new building will include a library, student housing, learning commons and recreational areas. The CAD building will feature dormitory spaces enabling more students to live on-campus and will increase the quality of student experience by facilitating access to wonderful recreational and learning areas, including access to a sophisticated collection of books in the student library.

## CONSTRUCT AND EQUIP A NEW STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND STUDENT CLUB CENTER

The RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) student clubs are a learning network of students that through their activities enable experiential learning and enrich the campus life experiences for all student body. Each club cooperates and coordinates its activities with the Student Government. Currently, the student government has a small one-desk office and the student clubs mostly meet in the student cafeteria or in classroom spaces whenever they are free. Lack of proper environment inhibits their ability to learn, engage, collaborate, plan and execute activities of the clubs.



## ECO-FRIENDLY ROOF RETROFITTING WITH SOLAR PANEL SOLUTION AT RIT KOSOVO (A.U.K)

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) has created a concrete plan for switching its main campus building to renewable energy, and has acquired market-based offers in this regard. RIT Kosovo (A.U.K)'s proposed plan to switch to renewable energy sources through solar power, will generate up to 200,153kWh of energy during one calendar year. Through energy savings alone, this investment will pay for itself in less than 6 full years after implementation. In addition, over a 25 year life-cycle, this investment is expected to save RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) over 600,000 EUR in energy costs!

# IN MEMORIAM

**ARTAN VENHARI**  
1974–2019



**In loving memory  
of our friend,  
and colleague,  
whose laughter  
and kindness  
will forever  
remain  
in our hearts.**



# ANNUAL REPORT

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