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SLOVESNA OTVORITEV  
AKADEMSKEGA LETA 2024/2025

Dvorec Lanthieri, 17. oktober 2024



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## Nagovor rektorja Univerze v Novi Gorici prof. dr. Boštjan Golob

Reči moram, da sem rahlo pretresen. Ob pripravi tega nagovora sem se namreč zavedel, da je ponovno leto naokoli, spet začnemo nov cikel visokošolske produkcije in predaje znanja. Ta občutek stiske seveda ne izhaja iz morebitne nepripravljenosti univerze in vseh njenih sodelavk ter sodelavcev na te aktivnosti, pač pa iz hitrega teka časa. Pred malo manj kot letom dni sem ob eni od podelitev diplom prav na tem mestu povedal: »Današnji čas deluje kaotično. Marsikje po svetu mladi ne le nimajo možnosti za študij, pač pa umirajo v vojnah. Ob tem se še bolje zavemo privilegija, da lahko študiramo in intelektualno napredujemo v domačem okolju.« Letos sem pred nekaj dnevi bruckam in brucem dodal še, da »se zdi, da je svet na pragu večjih prelomov. Vojne, tudi v naši bližini, ki to pravzaprav niso, saj v njih ne sodelujejo le vojaki, pač pa v njih v velikem številu umirajo nedolžni civilisti; umetna inteligenca, ki žal pogosto ni niti umetna niti inteligenca; politike, ki to niso v izvirnem pomenu besede, saj se ne ukvarjajo z dobrobitjo družbe; podnebna vprašanja, ki niso vprašanja, saj poznamo odgovore, a jih ignoriramo – vse to so težki problemi, ki nas tarejo in jih moramo nasloviti.« Zdi se, da se je v času enega akademskega cikla, gledano z distance, spremenilo bore malo. Vojne v naši bližini se ne nadaljujejo, pač pa širijo. Ob svetovni ignoranci lahko rečemo, da so ta vojna področja tista, »kjer so bogovi mrtvi«, če uporabim naslov enega od filmskih dosežkov današnjega prejemnika častnega doktorata Univerze v Novi Gorici.

Vendarle bi lahko, kot znameniti Galileo Galilej, rekli: »E pur si muove!« Na naši univerzi, tudi v celotnem slovenskem visokošolskem prostoru, delamo previdne korake v pravo smer. Resda to niso koraki, ki bi nemudoma ustavili vojne, morda niso koraki, ki bi čez noč odpravili okoljske probleme ali nenadoma umetno inteligenco spravili na raven človeku vrednega in uporabnega orodja. Počasi, a vztrajno pa vendarle vodijo po poti, ki smo si jo zadali. Ob majhnih korakih se moramo žal pogosto odreči notranji želji po večjem in hitrejšem učinku, se torej zavedati, da ni smiselno bojevati vnaprej izgubljenih bitk. Hkrati pa nikdar ne zamuditi ideje, priložnosti za korak več. Vsak od nas, z navidezno majhnimi koraki na področju, ki ga obvlada, prispeva k temu, da se ti koraki

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seštejejo, postanejo korakanje, ki nezadržno vodi k zastavljenim ciljem, tudi k odpravi prej omenjenih grozot in problemov.

Korak več odlikuje današnje prejemnice in prejemnike nazivov Alumnus Primus in Alumnus Optimus. Za vse vas bi lahko rekli, da so to vaša »zgodnja dela«, če ponovno uporabim naslov ene od stvaritev današnjega prejemnika častnega doktorata, dela, ki vas usmerjajo na pravo poklicno pot. Ne le koraki, pač pa celotna doslej prehojena pot odlikuje prejemnico naziva zaslužna profesorica, celotna življenjska pot je izjemna za prejemnika zlate plakete Univerze v Novi Gorici, izjemni dosežki na celotni doslej prehojeni poti pa odlikujejo prejemnika naziva častni doktor Univerze v Novi Gorici.

Včasih se zgodi, da so sogovorniki, tudi sodelavke in sodelavci, v zadregi, ko je treba opisati Univerzo v Novi Gorici v nekaj besedah. Včasih slišimo pridevnik »butična«, ki niti ni napačen. Označuje količinsko omejeno, neserijsko in izjemno kakovostno storitev. Vsi na univerzi, pedagoški in raziskovalni, strokovni in administrativni sodelavci, delamo svoje korake po poti neserijskega in kakovostnega visokošolskega izobraževanja. Kar se tiče količine, torej števila študentk in študentov, pa se trudimo obstoječe meje premakniti.

Letos na univerzi nadaljujemo koordinacijo in izvajanje evropskega COFUND projekta SMASH. Visoko ga cenimo, saj utrjuje sodelovanje med vrhunskimi slovenskimi raziskovalnimi institucijami. V mislih imamo razširjanje pridobljene ekspertize še z drugimi deležniki na področju umetne inteligence, z akademskimi in neakademskimi. V zavedanju, da je visokošolsko izobraževanje intimno povezano z znanstvenoraziskovalno dejavnostjo, širimo sodelovanje z nekaterimi javnimi raziskovalnimi zavodi. Velike napore usmerjamo v pričakovan začetek delovanja evropske univerze ACROSS, mednarodne zveze devetih univerz, ki delujejo v obmejnih evropskih prostorih. Financiranje projekta se začne naslednje leto: kot smo že navajeni, smo ponovno v družbi večjih univerz. Ni nam lahko, a kot že doslej moramo imeti vse, kar imajo veliki. Svojo mednarodno odprtost utrjujemo tudi s prvimi koraki k podpisu sporazuma o sodelovanju z eno od japonskih univerz, katere predstavniki so bili ob obisku pri nas vidno presenečeni nad našimi raziskovalnimi zmogljivostmi, dosežki in načrti.

Znanstvenoraziskovalno vzdržujemo visoko število najodličnejših objav, dosežki naših raziskovalk in raziskovalcev so prepoznani doma in v tujini, med

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drugim tudi s številnimi stanovskimi in širšimi – Zoisovimi – nagradami. Umetnice in umetniki Univerze v Novi Gorici so lahko prav tako ponosni ob izjemnih dosežkih alumnov univerze.

Za vse napore, potrebne za doseganje te prepoznavnosti, se zahvaljujem vsem sodelavkam in sodelavcem.

Družbena vpetost je po našem mnenju tudi ena izmed vlog univerze v lokalnem in širšem okolju. Ne le z gospodarskimi subjekti, tudi z občinami, v katerih delujemo – z občino Vipava, Občino Ajdovščina in Mestno občino Nova Gorica – imamo odlično sodelovanje in načrte za razvoj. Skupaj se zavedamo pomena univerze, pomena ustvarjanja znanja, pomena prisotnosti študentk in študentov za kakovost življenja in prihodnost regije. Aktivni smo pri promociji Vipavske doline in naporih Vipave za povečanje turistične privlačnosti, pri vzpostavljanju Parka znanja v Občini Ajdovščina, pri širjenju pedagoških in drugih aktivnosti v Mestni občini Nova Gorica, tudi z znatnim prispevkom k pripravi Evropske prestolnice kulture 2025.

V skladu s slovenskim rekom o »štal'ci in krav'ci« se skoraj boleče zavedamo potrebe po širitvi univerzitetne infrastrukture. Nekateri načrti so bili že omenjeni, veselimo se čimprejšnjih prvih korakov k širitvi na območju Mestne občine Nova Gorica in Občine Ajdovščina. Zelo smo zadovoljni s posluhom občinskih vodstev po eni strani za naše želje in po drugi strani za pomen prisotnosti univerze v tem prostoru. V tehnološkoraazvojnem središču Ajdovščini načrtujemo vzpostavitev novih prostorov za laboratorije in centre, kjer bo raziskovanje šlo z roko v roki z razvojno dejavnostjo, akademsko in gospodarsko. V Mestni občini Nova Gorica prepoznavamo evropsko in širšo unikatnost enotnega čezmejnega urbanega področja Nove Gorice in Gorice. Zato v dogovoru z občino načrtujemo uporabo nekaterih nepremičnin brez oziranja na nekdanjo mejo. Odpira se nam možnost vzpostavitve nadstandardnih kapacitet za nastanitev študentk in študentov v Gorici.

Naj se vrnem k današnjim nagrajenkam in nagrajencem. Poleg prejemnic in prejemnikov naziva Alumnus Optimus in Alumnus Primus, ki seveda prihajajo s šestih fakultet univerze in njihovih šestnajstih prvo- in drugostopenjskih programov, tudi delo preostalih nagrajencev in nagrajenke sega na zelo različna področja: matematika in informacijske tehnologije, pravo in filmska umetnost.

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Tudi to kaže na odprtost univerze, ki mora prepoznavati izjemne dosežke ne glede na področje delovanja. Za nagrajence velja, da so delali korake, o katerih sem prej govoril, po svoji izbrani poti, ki jih je vodila do izjemnih prispevkov ne le za Univerzo v Novi Gorici, pač pa za veliko širšo skupnost. Žal so nekateri koraki že zastali, a se jih spominjamo in nadaljujemo njihovo načrtano pot.

Ob koncu naj povem le, da si želim, da se bomo čez nekaj let lahko spominjali korakov, ki jih delamo na univerzi danes, in rekli: »Tako se je kalilo jeklo.«

Dovolite, da že zdaj ne le čestitam vsem nagrajenkam in nagrajencem, pač pa se jim tudi iskreno zahvalim za njihov prispevek h korakanju po pravih poteh.

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## Address by the Rector of the University of Nova Gorica, Prof. Dr. Boštjan Golob

*I must say, I am slightly shaken. While preparing this speech, I realised that another year has passed, and we are starting a new cycle of higher education production and knowledge transfer. This sense of distress does not stem from any lack of preparedness on the part of the university and all its colleagues for these activities, but rather from the rapid passage of time. Just under a year ago, during a diploma award ceremony in this very place, I said, »The present time feels chaotic. In many places around the world, young people not only lack opportunities to study, but they are also dying in wars. This makes us even more aware of the privilege of being able to study and intellectually progress in our home environment.« This year, just a few days ago, I added for the freshmen that "it seems the world is on the brink of significant turning points. Wars, even close to us, are not truly wars, as not only soldiers are involved, but innocent civilians are dying in large numbers. Artificial intelligence, which unfortunately is often neither artificial nor intelligent, politics that do not align with the original meaning of the word, as they fail to address the well-being of society, and climate questions, which are not really questions, as we know the answers but choose to ignore them – these are all severe problems that weigh us down and must be addressed." It seems that over the course of one academic cycle, viewed from a distance, little has changed. Wars near us not only continue but are spreading. In the face of global indifference, we could say that these war zones are those »Where Gods Are Dead,« to use the title of one of the cinematic achievements of today's recipient of the honorary doctorate from the University of Nova Gorica.*

*Nevertheless, like the famous Galileo Galilei, we could say, »E pur si muove!« At our university, as well as in the entire Slovenian higher education space, we are making cautious steps in the right direction. Admittedly, these are not steps that would immediately stop wars, nor are they steps that would resolve environmental issues overnight or suddenly elevate artificial intelligence to the level of a human-worthy and useful tool. However, slowly but steadily, they lead down the path we have set for ourselves. Alongside small steps, we often have to sacrifice our inner desire for greater and faster impact, recognising that it is not sensible to fight battles that are lost in advance. At the same time, we must never miss an idea or opportunity to take one more step. Each of us, with seemingly small steps in our area of expertise, contributes*

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*to a cumulative effort that becomes an unstoppable march towards our set goals, including the elimination of the previously mentioned horrors and problems.*

*Today's recipients of the Alumnus Primus and Alumnus Optimus titles are distinguished by taking one step further. For all of you, we could say that these are your Early Works, to borrow once more the title of a work by today's recipient of the honorary doctorate, works that set you on the right professional path. Not just steps, but the entire path walked so far distinguishes the recipient of the title of Distinguished Professor, the life journey is exceptional for the recipient of the University of Nova Gorica's Golden Plaque, and remarkable achievements along the entire path so far distinguish the recipient of the title of Honorary Doctor of the University of Nova Gorica.*

*Sometimes it happens that interlocutors, including colleagues, find themselves at a loss when they need to describe the University of Nova Gorica in a few words. Sometimes we hear the adjective »boutique,« which is not entirely wrong. It signifies a limited quantity, non-standard, and exceptionally high-quality service. Everyone at the university, both educational and research staff, as well as professional and administrative colleagues, take steps towards non-standard and quality higher education. In terms of quantity, that is the number of students, we strive to push the existing boundaries.*

*This year, our university continues to coordinate and implement the European Co-fund project, SMASH. We value it highly, as it strengthens cooperation among leading Slovenian research institutions. We have plans to further expand the acquired expertise to other stakeholders in the field of artificial intelligence, both academic and non-academic. Aware that higher education is closely linked to scientific research activities, we are expanding cooperation with certain public research institutes. We are making significant efforts in anticipation of the start of operations of the European University, ACROSS, an international alliance of nine universities operating in European border regions. Project funding begins next year, and as we are accustomed to, we are once again among larger universities. It is not easy for us, but as always, we must have everything that the big universities have. We are also strengthening our international openness with the first steps towards signing a cooperation agreement with a Japanese university, whose representatives were visibly impressed during their visit with our research capacities, achievements, and plans. In terms of research, we maintain a high number of top-tier publications, and the achievements of our researchers are recognised both at home and abroad, including numerous profession-*



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*al and broader - Zois - awards. The artists of the University of Nova Gorica can also be proud of the outstanding achievements of the university's alumni.*

*I would like to thank all my colleagues for the efforts required to achieve this recognition.*

*Social engagement is, in our opinion, also one of the roles of the university in both the local and broader environment. We have excellent cooperation and development plans not only with economic entities, but also with the municipalities in which we operate – the Municipality of Vipava, the Municipality of Ajdovščina, and the City Municipality of Nova Gorica. Together, we recognise the importance of the university, the importance of generating knowledge, and the significance of the presence of students for the quality of life and the future of the region. We are active in promoting the Vipava Valley and supporting Vipava's efforts to enhance its tourist attractiveness, in establishing the Knowledge Park in the Municipality of Ajdovščina, and in expanding pedagogical and other activities in the City Municipality of Nova Gorica, also making a significant contribution to the preparation of the European Capital of Culture 2025.*

*According to the Slovenian saying about »the stable and the cow,« we are almost painfully aware of the need to expand the university infrastructure. Some plans have already been mentioned, and we look forward to taking the first steps towards expansion in the City Municipality of Nova Gorica and the Municipality of Ajdovščina as soon as possible. We are very pleased with the understanding of municipal leaderships, on one hand for our desires and on the other for the significance of the university's presence in this area. In Ajdovščina, the technology and development centre-point, we plan to establish new spaces for laboratories and centres where research will go hand in hand with developmental activities, both academic and economic. In the City Municipality of Nova Gorica, we recognise the European and broader uniqueness of the cross-border urban area of Nova Gorica and Gorizia. For this reason, in cooperation with the municipality, we are planning to use certain properties regardless of the former border. A possibility is opened for us to establish premium accommodation facilities for students in Gorizia.*

*Let me return to today's awardees. In addition to the recipients of the Alumnus Optimus and Alumnus Primus titles, who come from the university's six faculties and their sixteen first- and second-cycle programmes, the work of the remaining awar-*

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*dees also spans a wide variety of fields: mathematics and information technology, law, and film art. This also demonstrates the openness of the university, which must recognise exceptional achievements regardless of the field of activity. For the awardees, it is true that they have taken steps, as I mentioned earlier, on their chosen path, which has led them to remarkable contributions not only for the University of Nova Gorica, but for a much broader community. Unfortunately, some steps have already halted, but we remember them and continue along their charted path.*

*In conclusion, I would like to say that I hope in a few years we will look back on the steps we are taking at the university today and say this was "The way steel was tempered."*

*Allow me, right now, not only to congratulate all the awardees, but also to sincerely thank them for their contribution to marching along the right paths.*

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# Alumnus primus in alumnus optimus Univerze v Novi Gorici

## Poslovno-tehniška fakulteta

### Dodiplomski študijski program Gospodarski inženiring

*alumnus primus*

- **Karin Logar**

*alumnus optimus*

- **Anže Novinec**

### Magistrski študijski program Gospodarski inženiring

*alumnus optimus*

- **Andrea Stefanović**

### Magistrski študijski program Načrtovanje in vodenje odprtega izobraževanja

*alumnus optimus*

- **Lucian Vumilia Ngeze**

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# Fakulteta za znanosti o okolju

## Dodiplomski študijski program Okolje

*alumnus primus*

- Erik Maksimiljan Perkavac

*alumnus optimus*

- Erik Maksimiljan Perkavac

## Magistrski študijski program Okolje

*alumnus primus*

- Irma Hostnik
- Ranin M. D. Ismail

*alumnus optimus*

- Klemen Levičnik

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# Fakulteta za humanistiko

## Dodiplomski študijski program Kulturna zgodovina

*alumnus primus*

- **Svetozar Bastač**

*alumnus optimus*

- **Svetozar Bastač**

## Magistrski študijski program Slovenistika

*alumnus primus*

- **Megumi Tona**

*alumnus optimus*

- **Darko Ilin**

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# Fakulteta za naravoslovje

Dodiplomski študijski program  
Fizika in astrofizika

*alumnus primus*

- **Ivana Sulaver**

*alumnus optimus*

- **Ivana Sulaver**

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# Fakulteta za vinogradništvo in vinarstvo

Dodiplomski študijski program  
Vinogradništvo in vinarstvo

*alumnus primus*

- **Magdalina Mihajlovska**

*alumnus optimus*

- **Magdalina Mihajlovska**

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# Akademija umetnosti

## Dodiplomski študijski program Digitalne umetnosti in prakse

*alumnus primus*

- **Filip Sluga**

*alumnus optimus*

- **Ana Logar**

## Magistrski študijski program Medijske umetnosti in prakse

*alumnus primus*

- **Anastasija Kojić**

*alumnus optimus*

- **Milan Bajčetić**



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# Častna naziva in priznanje Univerze v Novi Gorici

*naziv zaslužna profesorica*

***prof. dr. Tanja Urbančič***

*priznanje zlata plaketa*

***Borut Lavrič***

*naziv častni doktor*

***Želimir Žilnik***

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Zaslužna profesorica Univerze v Novi Gorici  
– *professor emeritus* –  
prof. dr. Tanja Urbančič

Senat Univerze v Novi Gorici je na seji 16. julija 2024 sklenil, da naziv zaslužna profesorica Univerze v Novi Gorici – professor emeritus – prejme prof. dr. Tanja Urbančič za pomemben prispevek k sistemskim rešitvam ter h kakovosti in razvoju izobraževanja tako na Univerzi v Novi Gorici kot tudi širše.

Dosežki prof. dr. Tanje Urbančič na področju izobraževanja, raziskovanja in prenosa znanja imajo trajen pozitiven vpliv in doprinos tako v slovenskem kot v mednarodnem prostoru. Bila je soustvarjalka in nosilka razvoja kot dolgoletna dekanja Poslovno-tehniške fakultete (PTF) na Univerzi v Novi Gorici (UNG), na kateri je v tem času študij dokončalo več kot 600 študentov gospodarskega inženiringa.

V sodelovanju z Unescovimi strokovnjaki je zasnovala, razvila in prva tri leta tudi vodila inovativen mednarodni mentorski program Odprto izobraževanje za boljši svet (Open Education for a Better World), ki je doživel izjemen uspeh. K sodelovanju je pritegnil več kot 200 mentorjev prostovoljcev in več sto razvijalcev izobraževalnih materialov z vsega sveta ter v številnih državah podprl nastajanje odprtodostopnih izobraževalnih materialov s področij, kot so izboljševanje izobraževanja, zmanjševanje družbenih neenakosti, varovanje okolja in zdravja. Iz tega je leta 2020 nastal magistrski študijski program Načrtovanje in vodenje odprtega izobraževanja na Poslovno-tehniški fakulteti.

Prof. dr. Tanja Urbančič se je po diplomu iz matematike zaposlila kot raziskovalka na Institutu Jožef Stefan (IJS), kjer se je začela ukvarjati z razvojem in uporabo metod umetne inteligence. Na podiplomskem študiju se je usmerila v računalništvo in leta 1993 na tem področju doktorirala na Univerzi v Ljubljani. Na IJS se je ukvarjala z modeliranjem in s sintezo znanja za vodenje sistemov z uporabo metod strojnega učenja. S sodelavci IJS je koordinirala ustanovitev Centra za prenos znanja na področju informacijskih tehnologij, ki ga je vodila med letoma 1996 in 2002.

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Leta 1999 je dr. Tanja Urbančič z zaposlitvijo na UNG dobila priložnost, da raziskovanje tehnologij znanja in praktični vidik prenosa znanja nadalje razvija neposredno v visokošolskem prostoru. Na UNG je prevzela vodenje PTF in vodila fakulteto več kot 20 let. Vodila in izvajala je več predmetov na magistrski stopnji, med drugim Upravljanje znanja, Osnove odprtega izobraževanja, Projekt 1 (skupinski) in Projekt 2 (individualni). Za skoraj deset let je prevzela tudi koordinacijo praktičnega usposabljanja na študijskem programu gospodarskega inženiringa. S tem je dodatno krepila vezi med fakulteto in njenim okoljem.

Čeprav se je dr. Tanja Urbančič novembra 2023 upokojila, svoje poslanstvo nadaljuje prek Fundacije Univerze v Novi Gorici, v okviru katere je predlagala ter vzpostavila pogoje za ustanovitev Sklada za razvoj in inovacije v izobraževanju.

*At its session of 16 July 2024, the Senate of the University of Nova Gorica decided to award the title of Professor Emeritus of the University of Nova Gorica to Prof. Dr. Tanja Urbančič for her significant contribution to systemic solutions and to the quality and development of education both at the University of Nova Gorica and beyond.*

*The achievements of Prof. Dr. Tanja Urbančič in the field of education, research, and knowledge transfer have made a lasting positive impact and contribution both in Slovenia and internationally. She was a co-creator and leader in the development of the School of Engineering and Management at the University of Nova Gorica (UNG), where more than 600 students of engineering and management have graduated over the years.*

*In collaboration with UNESCO experts, she designed, developed, and, for the first three years, managed the innovative international mentoring programme on Open Education for a Better World, which was a great success. The programme has attracted more than 200 volunteer mentors and hundreds of educational material developers from around the world, and has supported the production of open educational resources in numerous countries in areas such as improving education, reducing social inequality, and health and environmental protection. This led to the development of the master's programme in Leadership in Open Education at the School of Engineering and Management in 2020.*

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*After graduating in mathematics, Prof. Dr. Urbančič joined the Jožef Stefan Institute (IJS) as a researcher, where she started to work on the development and application of artificial intelligence methods. During her postgraduate studies, she focused on computer science and obtained her doctoral degree in this field at the University of Ljubljana in 1993. At IJS, she worked on modelling and knowledge synthesis for systems management using machine learning methods. At IJS, she coordinated the establishment of the Centre for Knowledge Transfer in Information Technology, which she headed from 1996 to 2002.*

*Dr Urbančič joined the UNG in 1999 and was given the opportunity to further develop her research on knowledge technologies and the practical aspects of knowledge transfer directly in higher education. She took over the management of the School of Engineering and Management at the UNG and led it for more than 20 years. She has taught and supervised several master's courses, including Knowledge Management, Introduction to Open Education, Project 1 (team), and Project 2 (individual). She also took over the coordination of practical training in the Engineering and Management programme for almost ten years, thus further strengthening the links between the school and its environment.*

*Although Dr. Urbančič retired in November 2023, she continues her mission through the University of Nova Gorica Foundation, where she proposed and created the conditions for the establishment of the Fund for Development and Innovation in Education.*

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## Zlata plaketa Univerze v Novi Gorici Borut Lavrič

Upravni odbor Univerze v Novi Gorici je na seji 18. oktobra 2023 sklenil, da priznanje zlata plaketa Univerze v Novi Gorici prejme Borut Lavrič za izjemen prispevek k nastanku, razvoju in uveljavitvi Univerze v Novi Gorici.

Gospod Borut Lavrič je bil kot pravnik Instituta Jožef Stefan (IJS) skupaj s prof. dr. Zavrtanikom, prof. dr. Frankom in akad. prof. dr. Žekšem med četverico, ki se je že na začetku devetdesetih let zavzemala za strukturne reforme slovenskega akademskega prostora. Te reforme so leta 1993 v Državnem zboru omogočile sprejem Zakona o visokem šolstvu, leta 1996 sprejem Zakona o poklicnem in strokovnem izobraževanju, leta 1999 pa še noveliranje prvega. Brez teh reform bi bila ustanovitev Univerze v Novi Gorici in njenih predhodnic nemogoča.

Gospod Lavrič je bil kot pravnik Instituta Jožef Stefan v te procese aktivno vključen, saj je izvrstno in suvereno poznal področno zakonodajo. S tem znanjem je pripravil pravne osnove za ustanoviteljsko pogodbo, katere podpis je septembra leta 1995 omogočil ustanovitev Fakultete za znanosti o okolju. S svojim pravniškim znanjem je pomagal pri nastanku vseh njenih internih pravnih aktov, pri njeni pretvorbi v Politehniko Nova Gorica letu 1998 in pri nadgradnji slednje v Univerzo v Novi Gorici leta 2006.

Univerzi v Novi Gorici je pravniško pomagal tudi pri urejanju vseh pogosto zapletenih odnosov s soustanovitelji in drugimi deležniki v lokalnem in akademskem okolju. Vsi ti njegovi prispevki so bili neprecenljivi za razvoj in delovanje univerze.

Najočitnejši formalni znak pomena gospoda Boruta Lavriča za razvoj Univerze v Novi Gorici je dejstvo, da je bil od ustanovitve Fakultete za znanosti o okolju leta 1995 član vseh njenih sedmih upravnih odborov, trikrat tudi njihov predsednik.

Njegov prispevek k razvoju te unikatne ustanove v slovenskem visokošolskem prostoru presega zgolj pravne nasvete. S svojim poznavanjem akademsko

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-raziskovalne sfere je pogosto deloval kot svetovalec in zaupnik vodstva univerze, dekanov in vodij raziskovalnih enot. Prvič in edinkrat je gospod Borut Lavrič kot njegov predsednik ali član izpustil Sejo Upravnega odbora Univerze v Novi Gorici na njegovi zadnji seji v prejšnjem mandatu. To očitno kaže na njegovo predanost delu in razvoju Univerze v Novi Gorici.

Univerza v Novi Gorici bo v naslednjem mandatu Upravnega odbora morala živeti brez pravniškega znanja in modrosti gospoda Boruta Lavriča, a bo lahko naprej gradila na osnovah, ki jih je postavil.

*At its session of 18 October 2023, the Governing Board of the University of Nova Gorica decided to award the Golden Plate of the University of Nova Gorica to Borut Lavrič for his outstanding contribution to the establishment, development, and growth of the University of Nova Gorica.*

*Together with Prof. Dr. Zavrtanik, Prof. Dr. Franko, and Acad. Prof. Dr. Žekš, Mr. Borut Lavrič, as a lawyer at the Jožef Stefan Institute (IJS), was part of the quartet who advocated structural reforms in the Slovenian academic arena at the very beginning of the 1990s. These reforms enabled the National Assembly to adopt the Higher Education Act in 1993, the Vocational and Technical Education Act in 1996, and an amendment to the former in 1999. Without these reforms, the establishment of the University of Nova Gorica and its predecessors would not have been possible.*

*As a lawyer at the Jožef Stefan Institute, Mr. Lavrič was actively involved in these processes, which gave him excellent and sovereign knowledge of the relevant legislation. With this knowledge, he prepared the legal foundations for the founders' agreement, the September 1995 signing of which enabled the establishment of the School of Environmental Sciences.*

*With his legal expertise he helped to create all of the school's internal legal documents, to later transform it into the Nova Gorica Polytechnic in 1998, and to upgrade it to the University of Nova Gorica in 2006.*

*He has also assisted the University of Nova Gorica in managing all of its often complex relations with co-founders and other stakeholders in the local and academic*

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*environment. All of these contributions have been invaluable for the development and functioning of the University.*

*The most obvious formal sign of Mr. Lavrič's importance to the development of the University of Nova Gorica is the fact that he has been a member of all seven of its governing boards, three times as president, since the establishment of the School of Environmental Sciences in 1995.*

*His contribution to the development of this unique institution in the Slovenian higher education arena goes beyond legal advice. His knowledge of the academic and research sphere has often led him to act as an advisor and confidant to the university's management, deans, and heads of research units. Mr. Lavrič, either as its chair or as a member, missed a meeting of the Governing Board of the University of Nova Gorica for the first and only time at its last meeting in the previous term. This clearly shows his commitment to the work and to the development of the University of Nova Gorica.*

*From the next term of the Governing Board, the University of Nova Gorica will have to go on without the legal expertise and wisdom of Mr. Lavrič, but it will be able to continue to build on the foundations he has laid.*

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# Častni doktor Univerze v Novi Gorici

– *doctor honoris causa* –

## Želimir Žilnik

Senat Univerze v Novi Gorici je na seji 16. julija 2024 sklenil, da naziv častni doktor Univerze v Novi Gorici – *doctor honoris causa* – prejme Želimir Žilnik za izjemne dosežke na področju filma in za obogatitev svetovne zakladnice umetnosti.

Želimir Žilnik se je rodil leta 1942 v taborišču v Nišu. Živi v Novem Sadu, dela pa po vsem svetu. Bil je politični disident tako v socialističnem kot tudi v Miloševićevem režimu. Ogledalo nastavlja vsem režimom, vladam in družbi v vseh kritičnih trenutkih. Njegovi filmi so bili prvič opaženi konec šestdesetih let prejšnjega stoletja, v sedemdesetih letih pa je doživljal hude ideološke kritike, nekateri njegovi filmi so bili cenzurirani in prepovedani. Bil je in je eden zadnjih še delujočih predstavnikov »črnega vala jugoslovanskega filma«. Svetovno slavo je dosegel že s svojim drugim celovečernim filmom Zgodnja dela (Rani radovi) iz leta 1968. Omenjeni film so najprej prepovedali, nato pa je Želimirju kot diplomiranemu pravniku uspelo izpeljati pravni preobrat in jugoslovanske oblasti so mu dovolile udeležbo na znamenitem Mednarodnem filmskem festivalu v Berlinu. Tam je film prejel veliko nagrado, ki je bila takrat najvišja filmska nagrada za jugoslovanski film na enem od treh največjih filmskih festivalov na svetu.

Pozneje je Želimir razvil specifičen filmski jezik (danes ga imenujemo dokumentarno-igrani film ali dokudrama) in posnel veliko celovečernih filmov. Najbolj znani so kratki dokumentarni film Črni film (1971) in celovečerni igrani ter dokumentarni filmi, kot so Stara mašina (1989), Kam pluje ta ladja? (2000), Trdnjava Evropa (2001), trilogija o ekscentričnem Romu Kenediju Hasaniju, Destinacija Serbistan (2015) o emigrantih v Srbiji, Najlepša dežela na svetu (2018) o emigrantih, ki se prilagajajo življenju v obljubljenih deželah zahodne Evrope, ter Med ljudmi: življenje in igra (2018), dolgometražni video, ki je nastal kot del razstave Shadow Citizens 2020–2021 in ki je poklon neprofesionalnim igralcem iz njegovih filmov.

Želimir Žilnik se uspešno, inovativno in enako predano ukvarja tudi s pedagoškim delom. Kot gostujoči predavatelj predava na eminentnih univerzah po vsem sve-



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tu (Goldsmiths College – University of London, Leiden University, Kunst Akademie na Dunaju, Stanford University, New York University, Berkeley University of California, Harvard University, Central European University v Budimpešti, School of Arts and Communication – Malmö University, University College v Londonu idr).

Dolga je tudi zgodovina sodelovanja Želimirja Žilnika z Akademijo umetnosti Univerze v Novi Gorici. Z nami sodeluje že od leta 2000, ko smo, takrat še kot predhodnica Akademije umetnosti Univerze v Novi Gorici, Šola uporabnih umetnosti Famul Stuart, načrtovali odprtje programa s področja filma. Od takrat Želimir vsakih nekaj let izvede sklop predavanj ali delavnico dokumentarno-igranega filma z našimi študenti.

Želimir Žilnik je tudi danes visoko relevanten umetnik, ki ga vabijo in vključujejo v različne zbirke in manifestacije sodobne umetnosti. Njegovo delo lahko pravkar vidimo na slavnem Beneškem bienalu kot del sekcije Arhiv neposlušnosti (Disobedience Archive).

Včeraj, na predvečer podelitve častnega doktorata, smo ob projekciji njegovega filma gostili pogovor z njim. Pri nas bo znova gostoval že novembra, ko bo s študenti ustvaril novo izdajo kratkih dokumentarno-umetniških filmov, nastalih med raziskovanjem območja skorajšnje evropske prestolnice kulture Nova Gorica - Gorica.

*At its session of 16 July 2024, the Senate of the University of Nova Gorica decided to confer the title of Honorary Doctor – Doctor Honoris Causa – of the University of Nova Gorica on Želimir Žilnik for his outstanding achievements in the field of cinema, and for enriching the global treasure trove of art.*

*Mr. Želimir Žilnik was born in 1942 in a concentration camp in Niš. He lives in Novi Sad and works all over the world. He was a political dissident under the socialist regime as well as under Milosević, holding up a mirror to all regimes and governments, and to society, at all critical moments in time. His films were first noticed in the late 1960s, while in the 1970s he was subjected to severe ideological criticism, with some of his films being censored and banned. He was, and still is, one of the last remaining representatives of the Black Wave of Yugoslav cinema. He achieved worldwide fame with his second feature film, *Early Works*, in 1968. The film was*

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*banned at first, but then, as a qualified lawyer, Želimir managed to pull off a legal coup and the Yugoslav authorities allowed the film to be screened at one of the three biggest film festivals in the world, the Berlin Film Festival, where it won the Grand Prix, the highest film award for a Yugoslav film at the time.*

*Later on, Želimir developed a specific cinematic language (today we call it documentary drama or docudrama) and made a remarkable number of feature films. The best known are the short documentary Black Film (1971), and feature films and documentaries such as The Old Machine (1989), Wanderlust (2000), Fortress Europe (2001), the trilogy of the eccentric Romani Kenedi Hasani, Logbook\_Serbistan (2015) about migrants in Serbia, The Most Beautiful Country in the World (2018) about migrants adjusting to life in the promised lands of Western Europe, and Among the People: Life & Acting (2018), a feature film made as part of the Shadow Citizens 2020-2021 exhibition, a tribute to his non-professional actors.*

*Mr. Žilnik is also an equally successful, innovative, and dedicated teacher. He is a guest lecturer at eminent universities around the world (Goldsmiths College – University of London, Leiden University, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Stanford University, N.Y. University, Berkeley University of California, Harvard University, Central European University Budapest, School of Arts and Communication – Malmö University, University College London, etc.).*

*The collaboration between Mr. Žilnik and the School of Arts of the University of Nova Gorica is a long-standing one. Mr. Žilnik has been working with us since 2000, when we – at the time as the Famul Stuart School of Applied Arts, the predecessor of the School of Arts of the University of Nova Gorica – were planning to open a study programme in the field of film. Since then, Želimir has held a series of lectures or a documentary workshop with our students every few years.*

*Želimir Žilnik is still a highly relevant artist today, invited to and included in various collections and manifestations of contemporary art. Currently, his work can be seen at the famous Venice Biennale, as part of the Disobedience Archive section.*

*Yesterday, on the eve of the awarding of the honorary doctorate, we spoke to him at the screening of his film. In November, he will be back with us again, creating a new series of short documentary art films with students, exploring the territory of the soon to be European Capital of Culture, Nova Gorica – Gorizia.*



