

*Our Mission:
Supporting improved
educational opportunities for
the children and youth of the
isolated Malësia e Madhe
region of Northern Albania*



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Marash Rakaj

From the President

In June I traveled to Albania for the first time in four years. It was so good to see my friends again. It has been thirty years since my first visit to Albania and twenty years since my wife Terri, Albanian colleague, Professor Marash Rakaj and I started the Albanian Alps Institute. Twenty years! We said that we were in it for the long term, and we described “long term” as ten years. But donors continue to support our education programs in northern Albania. It’s so gratifying to see kids, especially girls realize their dreams of education.

AAI sponsored a competition/party in Dedaj while I was there. We had competition in music, art, dance, and volleyball. We paid for two busses to bring students from Kelmend. There were about a hundred students and thirty or so teachers. Everyone had a good time, and at the end, there was cake and ice cream all around. *Con’t on back.*

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS – 2022-2023

Congratulations and good luck to all our students!

Marisilda Pllumaj – Bachelor, Physiotherapy
Rozela Malotaj – Bachelor, Physiotherapy
Armando Bakaj – Bachelor, Finance/Accounting
Marin Malotaj – Bachelor, Civil Engineering
Kristjan Pllumaj, Bachelor, Computing
Ernest Gjelaç – Bachelor, Math Education
Mikel Rakaj – Bachelor, Business Administration
Xhesika Bakaj – Masters, Finance/Accounting
Ermela Celaj – Masters, Finance/Accounting
Ledi Marinaj – Masters, English
Stela Vulaj – Masters, Math Education
Xhulja Vulaj – High School

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From the President, con't

After the party, AAI paid for a dinner for my college student helpers, teachers, and some officials from Koplík. In a following small ceremony, I was given an award by the Municipality of Malësi e Madhe “For the contribution given to the promotion of tourism, the support of education and capacity building in the community of Malësi e Madhe Alps.” It was humbling.

In 2021, AAI expanded our area to include the Kelmend School District, over the mountains north and east of Shkrel. On this trip I got to visit the schools there, and came away favorably impressed with the teachers that I met.

And none of this could happen without your generous donations. You are helping change people’s lives and I and the students cannot thank you enough.



Selcë Kindergarten students



Vukël 9-year school



Bogë Kindergarten students



Steve visiting Vrith Kindergarten



Vrith English Students



Tamare 12-year School



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