Albanian Alps Institute



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

President: Steve Cook, PhD Secretary: Terri Cook Albania Manager: Marash Rakaj Executive Dir: Kristina Milaj

Board of Directors:

Mary Alice Seville Nancy Leeper Mona Jones-Romansic Jennifer Gervais

From the President

Our year started with a bit of a kerfuffle as I could not go to Albania due to the expiration date on my passport. While it expired after I would return from Albania, the rule (which I was not aware of) says it has to expire three months after my return. I learned this the day of departure. Unfortunately, we were not able to sponsor the annual school competition, however, the year was still a good one for us. We have expanded our donations to two more schools in the Shkrel School District. The villages of Reç and Zagore now receive kindergarten supplies and library books from AAI. Students from these two villages are now also eligible to apply for our university scholarships. Over the mountains in our other school district, Kelmend, we are trying to open a kindergarten in the village of Vukel. However, we are having difficulty finding a teacher because qualified people tend to leave the village. We will continue to look for a teacher.

In October, we welcomed a new board member, Jen Gervais, who has generously agreed to donate her time and knowledge of running non-profit organizations to AAI.

I want to personally congratulate Marin Malotaj, one of our star AAI university scholarship students. Marin finished second in an extremely competitive entrance exam to the Engineering Master Degree program at Tirana University. Well done, Marin! We're all proud of you.

In September, AAI Secretary, Terri Cook organized a twentieth anniversary celebration at a local winery near Corvallis. It was well attended and it was wonderful to see such a large turnout, including many long-time supporters of AAI. Below are some photos from the event.

Thank you to you, the donors, who have made it possible to continue our support of the educational opportunities in this little corner of the world.

Steve Cook, President













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Scholarship Applicants for the 24-25 School Year

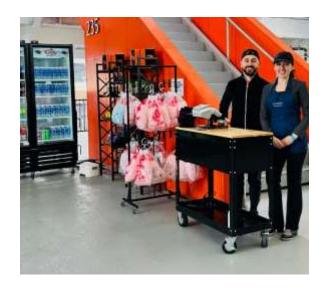
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Denisa Pepaj Ernest Gjelaj Marin Malotaj Rozalba Malotaj Anjeza Mitaj Denada Pepaj Desara Volaj Leonida Nacaj	Math/Informatics Math Education Civil Engineering Physiotherapy Nursing Biology/Chemistry Psychology Physiotherapy	Masters Masters Masters Bachelors Bachelors Bachelors Bachelors Bachelors	Fifth Year Fourth Year Fourth Year Third Year Second Year First Year First Year	Vrith Vukel Bzhete Selce Vrith Brozë Kozhn
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NEW FUNDRAISER



AAI partnered with Altrusa International Foundation of Corvallis to run one of the Grab n Go concession stands at the OSU home football games. We are grateful for this opportunity. Pictured above are Kristina Milaj, Executive Director, and her brother Bernard Milaj. A huge shoutout to Bernard for his volunteer efforts. He worked nearly all the games for us.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER JENNIFER GERVAIS

Jen is a wildlife ecologist who worked for many years for a small nonprofit organization focused on wildlife conservation and management. She now works in pesticide risk communication at the Pesticide Information National She has a lifelong Center. background in informal science education. Other interests include riparian restoration on the land she owns with her husband, pretty much



any activity as long as it is outdoors, and working with her blind and deaf dogs. She hopes to make a substantive contribution toward guiding AAI into the coming years, and to the rest of the team.



I want to thank you for the support you have given me for years. The scholarship means a lot to me, considering the expenses of a student and the place where I live. With the scholarship I received from AAI, it was easier for me to buy books, pay for transportation and rent.





I am very grateful for the scholarship I received from you, this is a good help for me because the cost of rented houses, textbooks and school fees are high. Thank you very much!

Ernest Gjelaj





