

Prishtina, 5 October 2015

Dear Mr./Mrs.,

A two-day scholarly conference, "Albanian Studies in America," was organized on 25-26 September 2015 by the Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts (ASHAK) at which over 40 participants from Kosova, Albania, United States, Germany, Italy, Poland and other countries presented scientific papers of a great interest in the field of language, literature, and Albanian culture in general, resulting in an advancement of these studies in the American continent.

The conference was opened by Academician Rexhep Ismajli, while Prof. Victor Friedman, the eminent US scholar in the field of Albanian studies, presented the closing remarks, with the assessment that the "the rich program and papers were of a very high quality, offering new information and analyses...Albanian studies in America indeed deserve the attention we have paid taking into account the achievements in the past, the current researches, and researches in the future..."

The conference marked the 95th anniversary of the birth of Eric Pratt Hamp, the eminent scholar in the field of Albanian studies and professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, an external member of the ASHAK, a scholar of world prominence in the field of contemporary linguistics, who, due to his age could not come to Prishtina. On this occasion, the President of Kosova, Mrs. Atifete Jahjaga, awarded Professor Hamp with the "President's Medal of Merits" for his extraordinary contribution to the advancement of the Albanian studies.

Finally, the participants adopted a "Call of the Conference" addressed to public and scientific community, scientific and university authorities in Kosova and Albania, the US university and scientific authorities, the Albanian community in the United States, and all relevant factors connecting Albanian world and American world to consider with priority the issue of establishing an educational research center at the university level in one of US university centers based on their standards.

Strongly believing that such a call (attached to this letter) needs support in order to put as soon as possible the plan into practice and hoping that we will have your generous support, we also call on you to support for the fulfillment of this long-lasting desire of the Albanian and American scholars.

Prishtina, 1 October 2015

Sincerely,

Academician Hivzi Islami
President of ASHAK