Libertas! This expression is the heart and soul of Dubrovnik, a magnificent city that is an assimilation of a thousand years of different cultures that have replaced one another. The bustling medieval-walled city, called the “Pearl of the Adriatic,” will be the site of ICFAD’s 2008 summer symposium where you will meet and hear from some of Croatia’s leading arts administrators and creative leaders, celebrate the 500th anniversary of playwright Marin Držić, who has been compared to and offered as an inspiration for Shakespeare, and learn about the traditions, challenges, and values of international festivals and cultural exchanges. Each evening you will have the opportunity to enjoy performances of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival in open-air sites throughout this fascinating city.

The home base for the symposium will be the Neptun Hotel, a perfect location to enjoy the wonders of Dubrovnik and the Dalmatian coastline. Located on a promontory overlooking the Adriatic, all rooms for the conference have a sea view (115 Euros – single, 159.5 Euros double, including breakfast and VAT). Bus transportation is in front of the hotel and goes directly to old town!
DAY 1
Tuesday, July 15

Enjoy a traditional Croatian welcome dinner for
participants and registered guests at the outdoors
terraces of the Komin Restaurant.

DAY 2
Wednesday, July 16
Location: Revellin Fort in the Old Town walls

Session One
9:00 A.M. ~ Celebrating the Dubrovnik Arts Festival
The Dubrovnik Festival, its history, its future, and its
importance as a location and as an institution that fostered
international understanding and cooperation during the
Cold War, was endangered by war in the 90s. It continues
today to fly the banner of artistic freedom and will be
introduced by a leading Croatian authority.

Session Two
10:30 A.M. ~ Celebrating 500 years: Marin Držić,
Priest, Playwright, and Political Provocateur
An exploration of the artistic, political, and personal life
of the man some have called the Croatian Shakespeare.
Držić lived during the Croatian Renaissance and his plays
open a window on that time of creative and political
ferment, blending the commonplace with the fantastic
by rendering unforgettable portraits of the people
of Dubrovnik.

3:00 P.M. ~ Afternoon tour of the Old Town of Dubrovnik
with scenic drive above Dubrovnik
At the very start of the 20th century the Balkan Peninsula
was perceived as ‘the restless corner of Europe’. Many who
endeavor to explain what was actually going on feel that
the deep, underlying reasons were not easy to understand.
The historical background will help you to see how recent
conflicts have their roots in the past. Find out some of the
misconceptions people had about the recent war, what it
was like to live in a besieged town, and how everything
got back to normal. First-person accounts by your guide,
stories from the ancient and modern history of the region,
all in the spectacular setting of the Old Town, will give
you a deeper insight into the true nature of Dubrovnik
and its people.

Evening ~ Festival Performance to be attended by
participants and registered guests

DAY 3
Thursday, July 17
A day-trip for participants and registered guests to Mostar.
During the centuries, Mostar has been a melting pot of
various cultures and religions. The city is situated in a
beautiful valley bedded between the high mountains of
Herzegovina. It is thanks to the river Neretva that Mostar
was able to develop as a city in the desert-like landscape
of Herzegovina. Neretva’s size turned Mostar very early
into a trading center of the region. The Mostar Bridge was
a very famous and historical bridge before its destruction
in 1993 during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The
rebuilding of the bridge in 2004 is a symbol of reconciliation
as well as an appeal to the regional and international
community to protect and promote its cultural heritage,
and is intended to bring former belligerents together,
helping them to resume dialogue, recreate a common
identity and build a sense of a shared future.

Evening ~ Festival Performance to be attended by
participants and registered guests

DAY 4
Friday, July 18
Revellin Fort

Session One
9:00 A.M. ~ Bologna in Action. A View from the Academy
The session will feature a panel of Deans from the
Academies of Art, Music, and Drama in Zagreb, Croatia
and from the Academies of Art and Music in Ljubljana,
Slovenia. Our panelists will speak to the changes attendant
upon the Bologna Agreement, on freedom in their countries,
artistic and political, and whether Bologna is seen as an
enhancement or as a constraint to either or both.

Session Two
10:30 A.M. ~ Working with European Institutions:
Profiles in International Partnerships
International partnerships are attractive to educational
leaders for many reasons. Among other benefits, such
partnerships offer enrolled students with opportunities
for new and meaningful educational experiences without
requiring substantial new investment in resources.
Featuring a panel made up of educational leaders from
both sides of international partnerships, this special
session will aim to help all deans better understand
the opportunities and challenges of different types
of international partnerships.

P.M. ~ Closing reception for participants and
registered guests

Evening ~ Traditional folk dancing performance