



# Newsletter

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## FULBRIGHT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN 2004 Message from the Executive Director

*Dear Fulbrighters and colleagues,*



We are at the threshold of 2005 and our hands are full of the ripe fruits of the first leap year in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During the last twelve months the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission continued to implement the goals of the Fulbright

program on the basis of the following program objectives: administering academic exchanges in all fields, especially in U.S. and BG studies, the social sciences and the humanities; extending outreach to more American and Bulgarian universities; introducing new programs and program components; providing English and

Bulgarian language training and computer testing; supporting and increasing the number of local Fulbright offices; continuing to maintain high standards of program administration according to the principles of bi-nationalism, peer review, academic and professional excellence and the current Fulbright program priorities.

In FY 2004 and AY 2004–2005 the overall number of exchangees was 43. Of them 23 were U.S. grantees and 20 were Bulgarian. There were eight U.S. lecturers in finance, business administration, philosophy, journalism, biology, computer science and medicine. They were assigned to the following universities in Bulgaria: Sofia University, the University of National and World Economy, the Technical University, the University of Rousse, the Varna Economics University, New Bulgarian University, the Bulgarian Medical Academy. There were six U.S. graduate students in East European history, psychology, environmental studies, political science and business. They were placed in appropriate universities and educational and research institutions with local advisors. During the period under review six American senior specialists visited different Bulgarian universities to deliver lectures, teach graduate and undergraduate courses, help with

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curriculum development in the following areas: economics and business, library science, education management, law, sociology, U.S. studies. Under the Fulbright Teacher Exchange three U.S. grantees taught English language and American literature at language high schools in Sofia, Stara Zagora and Plovdiv.

On the Bulgarian side there were 20 grantees in the following categories and fields: six scholars in mechanical engineering, chemistry, medieval BG studies, sociology, finance and pharmacology, eight students in finance, business administration, law, international relations, East European studies and film studies, one H. Humphrey fellow in drug abuse prevention and treatment, three teachers in English language and American literature and two participants in the U.S. Studies Summer Institutes.

*Grantee accomplishments*

Among the many reports we received from grantees and alumni telling about recognitions, publications, joint research in the field of American studies, cognitive science, public policy etc, worth mention is the John Atanassoff award for special achievements in computer engineering Bulgaria's President Georgui Parvanov recently presented to Preslav Nakov, a Bulgarian Ph.D. student at UC Berkeley. Radha Blackman, a U.S. Fulbright student in education, was recently awarded a six-month UNESCO internship in Paris. A number of distinguished Bulgarian Fulbright alumni presented papers at the annual conference of the Bulgarian American Studies Association on "America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" held in November 2003 and the 6<sup>th</sup> Fulbright Conference on "Strengthening Transatlantic Relations through Academic Exchanges" held on July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup> in 2004. Some of them taught courses at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fulbright International Summer Institute.

*Non-Grant Activities*

Last year was rich in events that aptly complemented the grant activities of the Commission. On July 11 – August 9 the Commission conducted its fourth Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar entitled "Bulgaria and the New Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". It was sponsored and administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The participants were 14 U.S. university and college professors and high school teachers from 11 U.S. states. The rich program involved four intensive weeks of lectures, discussions, workshops, meetings, cultural events and a tour of Bulgaria. During the last week the group participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Fulbright conference and the Fulbright International Summer Institute in the mountain resort of Pamporovo.

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Fulbright Conference on "Strengthening Transatlantic Cooperation and European Integration through Cultural and Educational Exchange" took place on July 31 – August 1 also in Pamporovo. There were 54 participants from Bulgaria, the U.S., UK and Romania. Most of them were Fulbright grantees and alumni.

The third Fulbright International Summer Institute (FISI) followed immediately after the conference. It lasted three weeks and offered ten courses in a wide variety of areas, e.g. globalization, U.S. foreign policy, transatlantic relations, EU enlargement, negotiation and conflict resolution, Bulgarian culture, Bulgarian language etc. There were 50 participants from the U.S., Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Russia, Georgia and Uzbekistan. Most of the students received merit-based scholarships. Among the participants were also the AY 04–05 U.S. Fulbrighters and the

Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar participants. FISI 2004 was a big success.

The non-grant activities of the Commission also included educational advising, language training, computer testing and paper-based test administration. Here is a summary of the results: Advisees in Sofia and the 8 local Fulbright info-centers (visits, e-mail, mail and phone inquiries):

41 600

Website visits: 5 900

English language trainees: 600

Computer testing at CBT in Sofia: 2993

SAT administration: 513

CFA administration: 159

The Commission maintains nine regional info-centers in the major university towns: Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Burgas, Varna, Veliko Turnovo, Rousse, Smolyan and Vidin. The office in Vidin was opened in the fall of 2004. The standard activities of the Commission's regional

offices include educational advising, information about the Fulbright and other related programs, English language training, test registration and assistance to Fulbright grantees. The Vidin center is offering free English language training to Roma children studying at the "Simeon the Great" High School.

The positive results of our work in 2004 fill me with optimism for the future and especially for the coming year. Three major events have been put in the 2005 Fulbright calendar: celebration of the centennial of the birth of Senator James William Fulbright on April 9, the 25<sup>th</sup> conference of European Executive Directors of Fulbright Commissions on April 23–29 and the fourth Fulbright International Summer Seminar (FISI) on August 1–13. I am sure that the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission and its staff have the capacity, the energy and the creativity to meet the new challenges and write another exciting chapter in the history of the Fulbright program in Bulgaria.

**BULGARIAN FULBRIGHT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Full name .....

Home address .....

Field, Academic Rank and Degree .....

Present Place and Address of Employment .....

.....

Phone, Fax .....

Type, Year and Duration of Grant .....

Place and Name of Host Institution .....

*Please complete and return to the Fulbright commission office address.*

## Fulbright Interview



*Edward Monroe has a MS degree with a focus on earth science education from Johns Hopkins University. Prior to his Fulbright grant, he spent two years in Bulgaria as a Peace Corps volunteer.*

**Snejana Teneva:** Edward, you have previously been to Bulgaria with the Peace Corps. Why did you apply again for a Fulbright scholarship to Bulgaria?

**Edward Monroe:** I enjoyed my first stay in Bulgaria very much and thought often about returning. In particular I missed the mountains, the black sea coast, and the warm nature and open heartedness of many Bulgarians. Despite its positives, at that time Bulgaria was undergoing a major transition. I witnessed national strikes, a siege on parliament, super-inflation and failing banks. Now that I have returned to Bulgaria through the Fulbright program, I can see many changes have taken place. Infrastructure is improving, new buildings are being constructed, and many young Bulgarians seem to have adapted quite well.

**S.T. What does Fulbright mean to you?**

Fulbright has been a wonderful opportunity for me to develop and exchange ideas. As an example, I recently attended a Fulbright conference in Berlin with over 300 participants made up of teachers, researchers, and professors. Participants were from a variety of states in the US, focused on different subject areas, and living/working throughout Europe. Still, we all seemed to have a fondness for sharing ideas. I think only Fulbright can provide an experience like that.

**S.T. What is the objective of your Fulbright project?**

My intent is to generate awareness for the restoration and upkeep of Bulgaria's historical stone

buildings. From research results, I am producing articles for an English language newspaper in Sofia, as well as magazines in the US. My project is entitled, "Building Stones of Bulgaria from Ancient Times to the Present." Bulgaria's unique geology and history provide a wonderful place for my research. It has buildings that are over 2,500 years in age and diverse stone materials including various types of limestone, sandstone, granite, and marble.

**S.T. Which sites have you selected to conduct your research?**

My first research site was the Thracian tomb outside of the town of Starosel. I was amazed at their level of building technology from the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. For the exterior of the tomb they cut large blocks of attractive and durable granite from a quarry, transported the blocks 20 km to the tomb, and secured them in place with iron rods. Other examples of research sites include the churches of seaside Nessebar, traditional homes in the Rhodopi Mountains, and the Ottoman fortress at Belogradchik.

**S.T. How do you conduct your building stone research?**

To begin, professional contacts at the research sites are very important, such as historians, archeologists,

or quarry managers. Regardless of their specialty, it is helpful to talk with someone who can provide background information and refer me to others with knowledge of the area. My field research includes the identification of local landforms, quarries, and stones, as well as the historical background of the building. Photographs are also an important part of documentation and accompany the articles that I write later.

**S.T. How did Fulbright change your life?**

Fulbright has helped me to grow as a person and as a professional. I have had the opportunity to design and conduct research on the topic of my choice. Through this process, I have met many wonderful people. Bulgarian colleagues and professionals have been incredibly welcoming and generous. On more than one occasion someone has gone out of his/her way to meet with me. Indeed, I have had many engaging chats over a cup of coffee. I look forward to my further research work and eventually sharing stories from my Fulbright experience when I return to the US.



**БЪЛГАРО-АМЕРИКАНСКА КОМИСИЯ ЗА ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЕН ОБМЕН**

**УЧЕБНИЯТ ЦЕНТЪР КЪМ КОМИСИЯ "ФУЛБРАЙТ" предлага:**

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- Курсове за подготовка за TOEFL, NEW SAT, GRE, GMAT
- Подготовка по английски език за кандидат-студенти в УНСС
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- English speaking club with *native speaker*
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- Отстъпки от цените при записване за повече от един курс
- Консултации за обучение в САЩ
- Библиотека с учебна и справочна литература

За информация: София 1504, ул."Панайот Волов" №1, етаж II  
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## *Fulbright Office News*

### NEW PROGRAM OFFICER FOR US GRANTEES



Rada Kaneva was recently appointed as program officer for US grantees. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Turkish studies from Sofia University and a Master's degree in European integration from New Bulgarian University.

### CULTURAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES FOR U.S. FULBRIGHT GRANTEES



Trip to Borovets, February 2005

## CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF SENATOR JAMES WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

April 9, 2005, Saturday

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"  
Aula

- 14:00 – 14:45            Official opening and greeting addresses:
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Julia Stefanova,  
                                 Executive Director, Bulgarian Fulbright Commission
- Prof. DS Boyan Biolchev, Rector, Sofia University
- Geffrey Levine, DCM, US Embassy
- 14:45 – 16:15            Session 1: Presentations:
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Julia Stefanova  
                                 Dr. Kostadin Grozev  
                                 Prof. John Deely – USA  
                                 Leila Mustanoia – Finland
- 16:15 – 16:30            Coffee break
- 16:30 – 17:45            Session 2: Roundtable discussion I:
- How the Fulbright grant changed my life
- Participants: Fulbright alumni: senior scholars
- 17:45 – 19:00            Session 3: Roundtable discussion II:
- How the Fulbright grant changed my life
- Participants:** Fulbright alumni: graduate students
- 19:00 – 19:30            Closing session
- 19:45 – 22:00            Reception at "Yaitseto" restaurant, Sofia University

*Sponsors: the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission and the Bulgarian Fulbright Alumni Association*

FULBRIGHT INTERNATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE 2005  
WWW.FISI-BG.INFO

The Fulbright International Summer Institute (FISI) is an academic and cultural program created by the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission in 2002. FISI offers one- or two-week intensive courses in a wide variety of subject areas. All courses are taught in English by distinguished professors from the U.S., Europe and Bulgaria, and are addressed to undergraduate and graduate students, university faculty and professionals. This year FISI is scheduled to take place from August 1 to August 13, 2005 in Pamporovo. You can choose from the following courses:

### Business and Economics

- Course 1: Negotiation and Conflict Resolution  
Lecturer: Prof. George Siedel, University of Michigan, Business School, MI, USA
- Course 2: Applied Microeconomics  
Lecturer: Prof. Ann Fender, Gettysburg College, PA, USA
- Course 3: Global Business Strategy: Globalization, Multinational Corporations, and the Nation-State  
Lecturer: Prof. Alexander Billon, University of Delaware, DE, USA
- Course 4: Financial Management  
Lecturer: Prof. Chenchuramaiah Bathala, Cleveland State University, OH, USA
- Course 5: Change Management: Let Your Creativity Escape: Change the Paradigm  
Lecturer: John Davie, Vector Management International Ltd., UK
- Course 6: Legal Ethics  
Lecturer: Dr. Sheila Hochhauser, Kansas State University, KS, USA
- Course 7: Business Culture and Business Idiom  
Lecturer: Dr. Shtiliana Halacheva-Rousseva, Technical University, Bulgaria

### Education and Communication

- Course 8: Integrated Interactive International Education  
Lecturers: Dr. Leon Richards and Linda Fujikawa, Kapi'olani Community College, University of Hawaii, HI, USA
- Course 9: Professional Communication for Intercultural Times  
Lecturer: Dr. Noemi Marin, Florida Atlantic University, FL, USA
- Course 10: Advocacy Workshop (Argument and Public Speaking Training)  
Lecturer: Dr. Joseph Zompetti, Illinois State University, IL, USA
- Course 11: Cooperative Learning and Cultural Sensitivity  
Lecturers: Shelley Friend and Dana Goodrich, Northwest Vista College, TX, USA

Course 12: The Art of Leadership, Personal Effectiveness and Power  
Lecturer: Prof. Elka Todorova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Course 13: Schools in American Culture  
Lecturer: Dr. Marcia Horne, Westfield State College, MA, USA

### Politics and International Relations

Course 14: American Foreign Policy and the International System in the Age of Globalization  
Lecturer: Prof. Mark Kramer, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

Course 15: Transatlantic Security in the Geopolitics of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Lecturer: Dr. Kostadin Grozev, Sofia University, Bulgaria

Course 16: The European Union: Legal Principles  
Lecturers: Prof. Jo-Carby-Hall, University of Hull, and Diane Ryland, University of Lincoln, UK

Course 17: Southeast Europe in the Context of the New Dynamics of the Euro-Atlantic Relations  
Lecturers: Dr. Dinko Dinkov and Stoyan Stoyanov, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Course 18: Aging of the European and North American Societies: Implications for the Younger Generation  
Lecturer: Dr. Timothy Ilg, University of Dayton, OH, USA

### Art and Culture

Course 18: Cultural Traditions in Bulgaria and Europe  
Lecturers: Team

Course 19: Bulgarian Language Instruction  
Lecturers: Team

Course 20: African-American Music and Cultural Globalization  
Lecturer: Dr. Claire Levy, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Course 21: Visual Literacy: Principles of Artistic Perception  
Lecturer: Dr. Boyan Dobrev, Academy of Fine Arts, Bulgaria

Course 22: Classic Novels into Film  
Lecturer: Dr. Madeleine Danova, Sofia University, Bulgaria

Course 23: The Culture of Perception: How to Figure out Contemporary Arts and Discourses and to Have Fun at That  
Lecturer: Dr. Dimitar Kambourov, Sofia University, Bulgaria

If you want to participate in this event, please visit [www.fisi-bg.info](http://www.fisi-bg.info) for practical information and application forms. You can also obtain general information from: Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange

17, Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd. Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Tel.: +359 (02) 980 82 12

E-mail: [rkaneva@fulbrsof.bol.bg](mailto:rkaneva@fulbrsof.bol.bg)

## To Chicago and Back

### A DAY OF AMERICAN-BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP IN CHANDLER

**Violeta Tsoneva, Fulbright exchange teacher,  
Hamilton High School Chandler, Arizona**

<http://vionet.blogspot.com>

<http://vionet2.blogspot.com>



Chandler Mall, March 5. In the background is the Arizona state tree, the Palo Verde (meaning green stick)

The card I received from Boyan put it, "Well, our tadpole days are over, feelings older, tired, and broke; can't hop as high, can't catch no fly but at least we haven't croaked." Yes, I am glad I am still alive (not croaked, dead) and I can live to the fullest and make the best out of my life. I had

celebrated my birthday in Moscow while I was a post-graduate student at Moscow State University and now life gave me the opportunity to celebrate March 4 in Arizona. According to <http://www.etn.nl/distanc4.htm> with information about the flying distances between 325 major airports in the world, the flying distance between SkyHarbor Airport, Phoenix, Arizona and Sofia Airport, Bulgaria is 10,397 km (6,460 miles). And though I am that far away from my family and friends in Bulgaria, I felt the positive energy from the teachers and students at Hamilton High School, my friends throughout the USA and the world and, of course, my father, daughter, husband, relatives, in-laws and old friends. Their love and efforts to make me feel special on March 4 made my birthday a real holiday for me.

The birthday person stands out on her/his day in different ways in Bulgaria and the USA. At HHS it is common for the birthday girl or boy to walk

proudly with a bunch of balloons and flowers. The students carry them from one classroom to another and sometimes there are announcements that there are gifts left for them at the front desk. I decided to celebrate my birthday at school the way I always do it in Bulgaria. In our country it is the birthday person who buys some candy and treats his friends to them. I had no Bulgarian candy, but Boyan and I had found a shop in Mesa that sells food from Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and some Arab countries. I gave all my students lokum (Turkish Delight) I had bought from *Giado* grocery store (on Dobson St., near the corner with Guadalupe St.). When they saw the lokum chunks with toothpicks, some of them asked me what it was, wanted to know whether I had made it, and some were honest to say that they were scared. I explained that lokum is a desert that is a popular food in the Balkan countries and that the best lokum is made in Turkey. Its ingredients are sugar, starch, water, flavorings, and nuts. To make the students feel comfortable with tasting lokum, I was the first one to put a piece of lokum in my mouth and eat it in one gulp. All three boxes of lokum were eaten and the students were smiling, it seemed everybody liked the delight from the Balkans.

In the USA it is the birthday person who is taken out to lunch or dinner by family and friends. My colleague Bill did something similar – he bought me lunch on March 4. I had American food – a can of classic Coca Cola, a hamburger and an oatmeal cookie. During the lunch break while I was at the table with some other teachers in the staff room, a messenger approached me with a vase of fresh red roses and a greeting card – the greetings of HHS: “Happy birthday, Violeta!” followed by a smiling emotion. From that moment on I had to carry the vase of flowers with me. I was invited to a potluck party in the E-wing. The teachers there had prepared food and taken it to Room E-100. That was their way to celebrate the end of the AIMS (Arizona Instrument for Measuring Standards) exams, the latest benchmark test (Feb 28 – March 4) and the inevitably approaching end of the third quarter. I joined them and tasted some of the deserts as I have a sweet tooth. During

conference time my colleague Diana Moore entered the classroom with a gift, her gorgeous smile and very stylish hair. She apologized she would not be able to come to my party in the evening as she had almost lost her voice. Before I left school in the afternoon, I was given a large greeting card signed by some teachers. On March 5 I received one more card from HHS that was signed by the school principal and his assistants and it had a bee on the front. The working bee was the connotation that I made as soon as I saw the card. Hard work as this of the working bee always pays back, this is how I decoded the message.

In the afternoon Boyan and I continued our preparations for the birthday dinner. I had invited a few teachers from the English Department and had promised them Bulgarian food and a sort of theme party whose topic would be Bulgaria. Bill rang the door bell at 6 p.m. sharp, a bit later came Cheryl carrying a birthday cake, and finally Doug showed up. First we had tarator – a cold soup made of yoghurt, fresh cucumbers, dill, olive oil, garlic, salt and walnuts. Next we served roasted peppers breaded with Bulgarian sheep’s cheese and eggs. There was also Bulgarian lyutenitsa we had bought from *Giado* – a dip made of steamed tomatoes, roasted red peppers, carrots and spices. The main dish was pork steaks stewed with onion, Cheddar cheese, sour cream and Bulgarian spices. The banitsa (cheese pastry) served with Bulgarian red *Mavrud* from Haskovo topped the dinner. Doug asked many questions about the food and how it was prepared. We decided to have a culinary workshop where I would teach Doug and some of our students how to cook some Bulgarian dishes. I have already made baklava and my Period 4 freshmen tasted it the last day of the first quarter in October. At the dinner table we talked about our various projects with students. Bill, Doug and I are thinking about a trip to Bulgaria for a group of students and teachers from HHS in the fall of 2005. The idea came from both freshmen and juniors who are in Period 4. My school in Sofia will host the visit and later it will send some of Mrs. Bravo-Buchanan’s current students to Chandler for a visit next year in March (Mrs. Bravo-Buchanan is my

exchange partner who is working at 91 German Language High School in 2004–2005 as an EFL teacher). So far this is just a project idea, but I know that whatever we decide to do with Bill Kleinman, it happens. I introduced him to iEARN (<http://www.iearn.org>) and the English-to-go World's Largest Lesson (<http://www.english-to-go.com>) and he liked the idea of opening the walls of the English classroom to the international community of teachers and students. For a month a few teams of our juniors have been designing Web pages with HHS students' contributions to iEARN projects and one myEUROPE project. Our choice of projects matches the curriculum and this will give our students the opportunity to improve their writing with the help of the international community of students and raise their awareness of diverse cultures and cultural context of world events.

Every gift I received from my colleagues was with a message. The cake from Cheryl had the *Happy Birthday, Violeta* sign written in red and it was a merry spot on the table – just as Cheryl is – she always smiles and she is good-hearted and compassionate. The pink bag full of BodySource cosmetics was her reminder that I should take care of my body when exposed to the heat and sun of Arizona. Bill had decided to make history with a very special gift – one that addressed my soul. He gave me John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* with the expectation not to make it "a burden, a curse" but a challenge for me during the last quarter of school. I hope that after *The Great Gatsby* I will enjoy team-teaching Steinbeck and Barbara Kingsolver with Bill to all our curious juniors. Doug had chosen a CD with a collection of topical songs by Pete Seeger in which the banjo and 12-string guitar player sings about prominent events and themes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – the Spanish Civil War,

the civil rights and the anti-war movements, etc. On that day I received once more flowers from Irina and Vassil since their original ones were delivered a few days earlier by mistake. They demanded that the florist deliver fresh flowers to me on the day of my birth. The jumbo card the teachers from HHS had signed and their greetings dominated the day and the gift table. In fact, all those gifts came to prove the Latin saying *Mens sana in corpore sano*. I hope this wish will come true while I am in Arizona and next back in Bulgaria.

Boyan's gifts were with a message as well. He had wrapped a DVD of the comedy *Raising Arizona* with Nicols Cage and Holly Hunter and, with his European taste, a stylish ballpoint pen *Jarden de Paris*. This reminded me of our dream to go to Paris together and visit the places that Boyan had been to while he lived there with his parents in the 1970s. Another gift of his is his love and attempts to make me happy not only on my birthday.

March 4 was a special day for me and I spent it with friends. Those who could not be with me on that day, sent their e-cards, e-mailed, called by telephone, sent cards by traditional mail. My ex-students sent their greeting from different parts of the world. Alex sent his greetings from Canada, Atanas – from France, Dimiter – from Germany. I am thankful to everybody who made me feel special on March 4 and enjoy life. Now I am writing this while I am listening to Pete Seeger singing. *Little Boxes* is there, too. This is a song that my students and I heard in the English Language classroom last year when Radha Blackman, another Fulbright scholar in Bulgaria, took a cassette of her favorites to my class. March 4, 2005 was a day of American-Bulgarian friendship in Chandler.



## Out of America

### BULGARIA AND THE NEW CHALLENGES OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar in Bulgaria, July 11–August 9, 2004

#### BULGARIA IS A BEAUTIFUL LAND

Yingfan Zhang, Associate Professor of Communication,  
Suffolk Community College, New York

**Bulgaria Travel Journal**  
July 31, 2004

My travel to Bulgaria by now is definitely more dramatic than I would have ever imagined. I would have never imagined to get injured exactly one week after we arrived in Sofia. I would never have imagined I would experience Bulgaria medical service first-handed. But what has impressed me most is that Bulgaria is such a beautiful land.



Bulgaria is a beautiful land because its topographic variation is diversified in a comparatively small land area. Within a day's drive, one is able to see plains, mountains, plateaus, basins, rivers, lakes, and oceans all come together. I feel God has decided to make Bulgaria a topographic *penjin*, a miniature landscape on the grand worldview. And such natural beauty is blended with the richness of history. Everywhere you turn, a story of the old past would come to greet you and immerse you in the long tradition of human civilization.

Bulgaria is a beautiful land because its scholars and poets, under pretty harsh living conditions, keep renewing the intellectual mind and the conscience of the society. I didn't cry for my injury, but tears just came to my eyes when I heard the Bulgarian poets produced songs of souls when their daily life was a constant struggle. I had to cheer the Bulgarian will for freedom when a high school English teacher, who graduated from University of Sofia 38 years ago and had been teaching ever since, said that she was willing to give up having heat in the winter time in order to have freedom.

Bulgaria is a beautiful land because, most of all, this fatherland or motherland has raised sons and daughters like Lyubomia and Maria.

Lyubomia was the Bulgarian young man who sent me to the emergency hospital on that unfortunate night of my fall. When I invited Lyubomia to my hotel two nights after he helped me, he didn't say much about his 12-hour day working schedule. He said that Bulgaria was in the change so he needed to work long hours. He said that he wanted to go to school for energy management as it was not safe for Bulgaria to depend on the nuclear power energy. Because of Lyubomia I can see that Bulgaria is a land full of hope.

Maria is a nurse at the best emergency hospital in Sofia. Maria is the sister of Anna, a Bulgaria Fulbright staff member. Maria was there to meet us the first day when we arrived in Sofia. Maria treated me with love and care a sister would give after I got injured. Maria has taught me that humanitarian love conquers any culture and language barrier. As my primary injury was caused by stepping into a particular uncovered drainage in downtown Sofia, I was asked many times if I wanted to sue the city of Sofia. I wanted the city to make sure the drainage was covered, but I just could not bring a charge against a city that had raised Lyubomir and Maria.

Yes it is most because the sons and daughters like Lyubomir and Maria that Bulgaria is a beautiful land. And I feel proud that such a beautiful land has become a milestone in my life journey.

### **Bulgaria Travel Journal**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004**

#### **LEAVING**

When I came,  
the sunflowers were holding high their  
youthful pride;

Now I'm leaving,  
they bow gently with natured modesty.

I'm saying goodbye  
but that doesn't mean departure

For I'll bring with me  
the silent lyrics of Korprovshitsa,  
the simple elegance of mountain villages,  
the Thracian breeze of Bourgas,  
the Roman echoes of Plovdiv,  
the beauty, kindness, and the Snejana smile  
of Sofia,  
and of course, the evergreen uprightness,  
the eternal blue moon,  
and the virgin daybreak of Pamporovo.

All I'll bring with me  
is yours, yours, yours.

So I know that in the bright sunshine  
of Fulbright

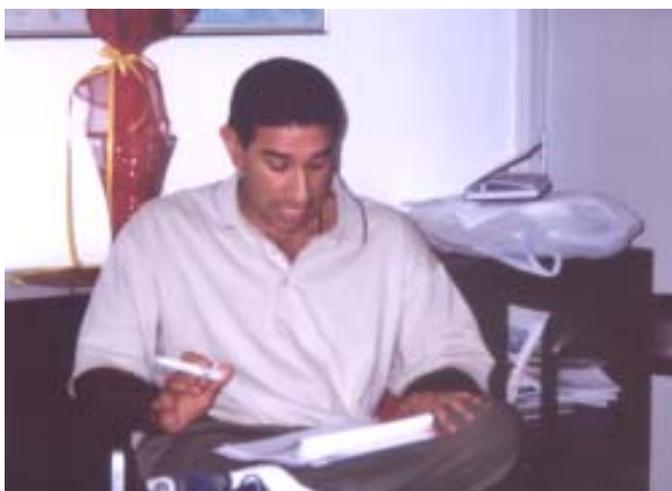
We'll see a future together in the foresight.



## TRIP REPORT

### Summer 2004

**Jude Thomas Manzo, Associate Professor,  
San Antonio College, Texas**



I had always heard extremely positive things about the Fulbright Program. Around the world it is known as a vibrant, dynamic, and competitive program that provides in-country experience, cultural and intellectual exchange, and lifelong memories. I was thrilled to be accepted to Bulgaria.

This was my first experience in Eastern Europe, so I did not know what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised. I loved the openness, helpfulness and international perspective of everyone involved, as well as the opportunity to see so much of Bulgaria. From the mountains to the sea, to the small towns and cities in between, I thoroughly enjoyed the lectures on Bulgarian history, politics and economics, the food, especially the mountain trout and Black Sea sturgeon,

the haunting music, learning a few folklore dance and dancing it in the \_\_\_ cave and in Plovdiv's Roman amphitheater, learning a few Bulgarian words, comparing Latin and Slavic root words and verb endings, hearing a language so different, the Fulbright International Summer Institute, learning about global politics and the legal implications of the European Union, talking to my Bulgarian, U.S. and European Union colleagues, and meeting and traveling with the Fulbright staff, who, I must say, took better care of me than anyone has ever done (just don't tell my wife that.)

Because our Bulgarian colleagues were on vacation while we were there, I was particularly touched that they would take time to meet with us. Before leaving, a colleague, whose husband is Bulgarian, asked what I would see. When I listed Sofia, Rila Monastery, Veliko Turnovo, Varna, Bourgas,



Sozopol, Nessebar, the Medara Horseman, Pamporovo, and said that there were a few more places that we would see also, she was speechless. So I really feel like I learned more about Bulgaria than most people learn about any country, and all within one month.

I am hoping to bring a Bulgarian colleague to San Antonio College, for a month, a semester or a year; Boyan Dobrev, has already expressed an interest. I talked to the college president about my Bulgaria experience, and he is very excited and supports hosting a Bulgarian Fulbrighter. (in November we have a one-month Fulbright lecturer here from Kazakhstan.)

Currently, I have a website with photos (courtesy of a colleague, Jimmy (Jeeemeee) Clark.) I will also post a short story by Emil Andreev – he is a Bulgarian short story writer, considered the “(Gabriel Garcia) Marquez” of Bulgaria. He and I email regularly, and he is thrilled to have his work posted on the web. I have also been creating

translucent map layers accessible via the internet, using ArcIMS. My Iberian peninsula maps have just gone up; Bulgaria will follow shortly.

All of these are at my homepage. If you google.com “San Antonio College Texas.” Then, within our college website, search “Manzo’s homepage”. If you have a really, really, really good memory, you can type in <http://www.accd.edu/sac/forlang/jmanzo/>

When I look at Bulgaria, I see tremendous growth potential, a beautiful, unspoiled countryside, and extremely bright and energetic people. It reminds me of the Spain I saw during the early 80’s to the early 90’s. Their membership in the European Union has had tremendous impact on the country; I hope for the same growth for Bulgaria.

I am very much looking forward to returning, and bringing my wife, who has only been able to hear all of my wonderful stories and see the photos, and am actively pursuing a one semester or one year Fulbright to return to Bulgaria.



# FULBRIGHT

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