



Newsletter

Sofia 1000, Al. Stamboliiski blvd., tel. (359 2) 981 85 67, 980 82 12, 981 68 30; fax (359 2) 988 45 17; E-mail: fulbright@fulbright.bg; Internet: www.fulbright.bg, www.fisi-bg.info

FULBRIGHT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN 2005 Message from the Executive Director

Dear Fulbright Colleagues,

Looking forward, I'd like to wish you a very productive and rewarding New Year 2006! It will be a special year for the Fulbright program worldwide marking the 60th anniversary of its establishment by the US Congress through the initiative of Senator J.W. Fulbright.

Looking back, I see a lot of hard work aimed at maintaining the well established rhythm of Fulbright activities combined with innovative creativity guaranteeing the sustainable growth and long life of the program. Let me provide some specific facts and figures to illustrate the above statement.

During 2005 the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission continued to work for the realization of the strategic goals of the Fulbright program on the basis of six specific objectives: supporting academic exchanges in all fields, especially the social sciences, the humanities and US and BG studies; extending outreach to more American and Bulgarian universities; introducing new programs and program components; providing English and Bulgarian language training, paper-based and computer testing; increasing the number and expanding the activities of local Fulbright offices; maintaining high



*Prof. Dr. Julia Stefanova
Executive Director
Bulgarian-American
Commission
for Educational Exchange*

standards of program administration according to the principles of bi-nationalism, peer review, academic and professional excellence.

1. GRANT ACTIVITIES

In AY 2004-2005 the overall number of exchanged grantees was 42: 23 American and 19 Bulgarian. There were 8 U.S. lecturers in finance, economics, business administration, philosophy, journalism, biology, computer science and medicine assigned to major universities in Bulgaria: Sofia University, University of National and World Economy, Technical University, University of Rousse, Varna Economics University, New Bulgarian University, Bulgarian Medical Academy, Bulgarian Academy of Science. There were also 7 U.S. graduate students in East European politics and history, psychology, theology and religion, environmental studies, political science and business. Depending on their projects they were placed in appropriate universities, e.g. Sofia University, University of Turnovo, AUBG, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Judging by the students' final reports, the evaluations of their local advisors and the communication we maintained with the grantees during the academic year, their projects were successfully implemented.

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In AY 2004-2005 five American senior specialists visited Bulgarian universities (South-West University in Blagoevgrad, Sofia University, Bourgas Free University, Plovdiv University) to deliver lectures, teach graduate and undergraduate courses, help with curriculum development in the following areas: education, economics, information technology, U.S. studies, sociology of religion. We consider the Senior Specialist program especially useful and productive and will further work to make it known to as many Bulgarian universities and educational institutions as possible.

Under the Fulbright Teacher Exchange three U.S. grantees taught English language and American literature at high schools in Sofia, Stara Zagora and Plovdiv.

Looking at the profile of the US scholars, students and teachers, their fields, home and host institutions, the key words that come to mind to describe their characteristics is variety and breadth. Although the size of the group was not large, the grantees came from 18 US states, 19 universities and three high schools. Their fields too covered a wide spectrum of disciplines. What is no less important is that geographically they were fairly evenly distributed so that there was Fulbright presence in all major university cities in Bulgaria: Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Rousse, Burgas, Blagoevgrad etc. Of course, there are still unutilized resources in this regard and the Commission will make further efforts to include more areas, places and people, especially underserved regions and social groups, in the Fulbright opportunity.

The Fulbright competition for FY 2005 and AY 2005-06 Fulbright scholars resulted in the selection of 15 US grantees. In the senior scholar category there are 7 lecturers in environmental engineering, social policy, law, sociology/cultural studies, classic studies, textile design and choreography. Three of the lecturers have already started their programs at Sofia University, the University of Architecture and Geodesy and the Academy of Fine Arts. Four more will be coming in the spring semester to teach at Sofia University and the American University in Blagoevgrad. Most of the US lecturers are based in Sofia but arrangements have been made for them to travel to universities outside the capital, e.g. Plovdiv, Turnovo, Burgas etc.

There are also 6 US graduate students in political science, sociology, economics, East European studies. They have started their projects with the help of local advisors from appropriate academic and public institutions.

Under the Teacher Exchange program there are two US grantees teaching English language and American literature at the language schools in Vratsa and Plovdiv.

In 2005 there were 19 Bulgarian grantees in the following categories and fields: 6 scholars in mechanical engineering, chemistry, medieval BG studies, sociology, finance and pharmacology, 7 students in finance, MBA, law, international relations and East European studies, one Hubert 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 - "US Foreign Policy" and "Religious Pluralism in the US". All scholars were granted 5-month scholarships and returned home on time. Their final reports unequivocally and unanimously indicate a high degree of satisfaction. Of the 7 students only one has returned to Bulgaria, having finished a one-year LLM program. The others are still in the US completing two-year programs.

The Fulbright competition for AY 2005-2006 grants resulted in 15 more Bulgarian nominees that were approved by BFS. There are 6 scholars in applied linguistics, biotechnology, physics, chemistry, anthropology and political science. Five of them have already started their projects at prestigious US universities: University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, SUNY- Syracuse, University of South Carolina in Columbia, University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities, Harvard University. One scholar will start her program in February 2006 at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

In the student category 7 students were approved, six of whom are enrolled in master's programs in public policy, law, international relations and computer science. One will be doing a non-degree program. The graduate students are all very strong and highly motivated and it is not surprising that they were admitted to most prestigious universities with financial support: Columbia University, NYU, Tulane University, Boston University, Georgetown University, Purdue University.

2. GRANTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Professor Herbert Achleitner from the School of Library and Information Management of Emporia State University was awarded the Blue Ribbon Medal for Distinguished Services at the University of Sofia. He received a Senior Specialist Grant in 2001 and visited the Department of Library and Information Sciences of Sofia University.

Professor John Deely from the University of St. Thomas in Houston became Distinguished Professor of New Bulgarian University. During his visit as a Fulbright lecturer in semiotics at NBU he produced three books that were published by NBU University Press: *Defining the Semiotic Animal*, *Augustine and Poincaré*, *Thomas Albert Sebeok and Semiotics*.

Professor Randall Baker from the University of Indiana in Bloomington too was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor of New Bulgarian University for his substantial contribution to the establishment of the program in public administration at NBU as a Fulbright scholar and lecturer.

In September 2005 Eduard Monroe, Fulbright student in environmental sciences, held an exhibition on "Stone Buildings in Bulgaria" at the US Embassy. The exhibition provoked great interest.

Bulgarian Fulbright alumna Dr. Tatyana Kalkanova became a member of the Bulgarian Parliament after the parliamentary elections in June 2005.

Fulbright alumna Dr. Claire Levy, Deputy Director of the Institute of Art Studies of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences published a study entitled *Dialogic Music: Blues, Popular Culture and the Myths of Modernity* for which she was awarded the highest scientific degree in Bulgaria, Doctor of Sciences.

Fulbright alumnus Dr. Boyan Dobrev produced an updated version of his CD entitled *Bulgaria*. The multimedia product commissioned by the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is unique with its 2500 photos, many virtual reality panoramas and video-materials. The CD was officially presented at a press conference and was widely acclaimed by the public.

3. NON-GRANT ACTIVITIES

On November 18, 2004, the Fulbright Commission opened its 9th local info-center at the Simeon Veliki Language school in the Danubian town of Vidin. The local Fulbright offices offer advising services, information about the Fulbright scholarships and English language training. The Vidin info-center is involved in English language training of Roma children. They are selected with the help of the local Roma organization Drom.

On April 9, 2005, the Commission organized a celebration of Senator J.W. Fulbright's 100th anniversary at the Aula of Sofia University. Over 150 Bulgarian and American alumni and grantees attended the event. The program included presentations and round-table discussions. To mark the occasion, the Commission produced a commemorative CD with information about Senator Fulbright, the Fulbright program, the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission, a database of BG and US alumni etc. The CD will be periodically updated and expanded.

On April 23-29 the Commission hosted the 25th Conference of Fulbright Executive Directors from Europe on "Transatlantic Exchanges with an Enlarging Europe". The official opening of the Conference on April 25 coincided with Bulgaria's signing the Treaty of Accession to the EU. Taking part in the conference were 25 Executive Directors from Europe, Israel and Ukraine, responsible representatives of ECA and FSB, including DAS Tom Farrell, FSB member Shirley Greene, Rosalind Swenson, Thomas Haran, Nadine Asef-Sargent, CIES Executive Director Patti McGill Peterson, IIE Vice-President Mary Kirk and others. Also attending were 8 US Embassy officials from Bulgaria, Belgium, Spain, Greece, Turkey and UK. The conference discussed a wide spectrum of issues related to the present state and future of the Fulbright program in the context of global and regional changes.

On August 1-13, 2005, the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission held its fourth international summer institute (FISI) in the mountain resort of Pamporovo. There were 60 participants of whom 46 were students from the U.S., Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and the Czech Republic. The

14 instructors were from prestigious universities in the U.S., UK and Bulgaria. Most of them were Fulbright alumni. As usual, FISU 2005 offered a interdisciplinary curriculum consisting of 9 courses in a variety of fields: "Negotiation and Conflict Resolution", "Global Business Strategy: Globalization, Multinational Corporations and the Nation-State", "Financial Management", "Cooperative Learning and Cultural Sensitivity", "US Foreign Policy and the International System in the Age of Globalization", "The European Union: Legal Principles", "South-East Europe in the Context of the New Dynamics of Euro-Atlantic Relations", "Cultural Traditions in Bulgaria", Bulgarian language instruction. The new group of American Fulbright students and lecturers, who were among the participants, stayed an additional third week to continue their training in Bulgarian. FISU 2005 offered a cultural enrichment program aimed at acquainting the participants with the rich historical legacy and variety of Bulgarian culture as well as with the beauty of local nature.

The non-grant activities of the Commission also included educational advising, language training, computer testing and paper-based test administration. Here is a statistical summary of the results:

- Advisees in Sofia and the 9 local Fulbright info-centers(visits, e-mail, mail and phone inquiries) : **42 000**

- English language trainees: **450**
- Computer testing at CBT in Sofia: **3115**
- SAT administration: **526**
- CFA administration: **209**

The Commission maintains 9 local offices in the major university towns:

Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Burgas, Varna, Veliko Turnovo, Rousse, Vidin and Smolyan. The standard activities in the Commission's local centers include educational advising, information about the Fulbright and other related programs, English language training, test registration and assistance to Fulbright grantees.

To sum up, 2005 was another productive year in the life of the Bulgarian Commission during which its Board and staff again succeeded in maintaining the high standards of program administration. I am sure that the new year 2006 will bring even more positive results and stronger incentives for further improvements and innovations.

I wish all of you lots of inspiration, creative energy and good luck during the New Year!

Dr. Julia Stefanova
Executive Director
Bulgarian-American Commission
for Educational Exchange

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 Office News

Targeted Collaborative Outreach Activities

In an effort to respond to the new priorities facing the Fulbright program, this year the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission placed a strategic emphasis on outreach all across Bulgaria and especially in underserved regions. We directed our activities towards three target audiences: university students, high school students and representatives of ethnic minorities. We also involved U.S. Embassy officers to explain visa regulations, eligibility for the Work and Travel Program etc.

The Bulgarian Fulbright Commission opened two more local information centers at the Varna Technical University (February 2006) and at the University of Shumen (March 2006). Thus our network of ten regional info-centers now covers the major university cities in Bulgaria: Plovdiv, Burgas, Varna, Veliko Turnovo, Rousse, Stara Zagora, Sliven, and Shumen as well as two underserved regions - Smolyan and Vidin.

At the official opening of the Varna office on February 22-23, 2006, Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director of the Bulgarian-



Official opening of the Fulbright Information Center in Varna. From left to right: Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission; Dr. Stefan Barudov, Rector of Technical University of Varna; Daniel Perrone, Consul, U.S. Embassy and Rhonda Crithlow, U.S. English Language Teaching Fellow at University of Varna.

American Fulbright Commission, Educational Adviser Snejana Teneva and Daniel Perrone, First Secretary - Consul at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia met with over 300 students, faculty and experts in the field of education. Dr. Stefanova delivered a presentation on the Fulbright Program and the 2007-2008 Fulbright grants competition and Daniel Perrone spoke about U.S. visas and the U.S. Government's Work and Travel



Official opening of the Fulbright Information Center in Shumen by Jeffrey Levine, DCM of the US Embassy in Bulgaria (middle) and Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director, Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission (right).



Over 180 students and faculty attended the presentation on "The Fulbright Program in Bulgaria and the 2007-2008 Fulbright Grants Competition" at Sofia University.



Presentation on "Testing Updates: iBT TOEFL, New SAT and Subject Tests" at "Drujba" Private Language High School in Bankya.



Rebecca Grutz, U.S. Embassy Consular Officer and Educational Adviser Snejana Teneva, giving a presentation on the Fulbright Grants Competition and F-1 and J-1 Visa Regulations at the Technical University of Sofia.

Program. Snejana Teneva offered consultations on the application process to U.S. institutions of higher learning and conducted training for the new Fulbright coordinator.

A month later, at the official opening of the Shumen office, Dr. Stefanova and Jeffrey Levine, DCM of the US Embassy in Bulgaria, presented the Fulbright Program and study opportunities in the US to over 100 students and faculty.

Educational adviser Snejana Teneva made presentations at five more universities: Sofia University, the Technical University of Sofia, the University of National and Global Economy (Sofia), New Bulgarian University (Sofia) and Trakiiski University (Stara Zagora). Taking part in the presentation in Stara Zagora was the US Consul Daniel Perrone who spoke about studying in the USA (visas, universities, etc). Rebecca Grutz, U.S. Embassy Consular Officer, participated in the session on

"Graduate Study in the US" at the Technical University in Sofia. Snejana also visited two high schools: the "Drujba" Private Language High School in Bankya and the High School of Ancient and Classical Languages in Sofia. Topics ranged from the Fulbright Program in Bulgaria and the 2007-2008 Fulbright grants competition to graduate and undergraduate study in the USA, tests and testing updates: iBT TOEFL, New SAT and Subject Tests, GRE and GMAT.

Outreach activities also included participation in the 9th Private Schools Exhibition in Sofia, interviews and articles for the media etc. Worth special mention is the Commission's involvement in the QS World MBA Fair in Sofia where representatives of 27 top MBA schools from across the globe met with over 1,200 Bulgarian students on March 15 this year.

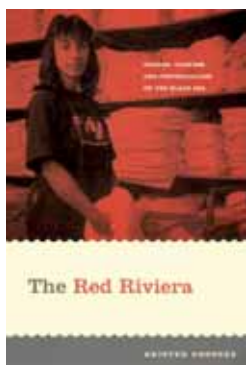


Over 1,200 students, scholars and professionals visited the QS World MBA Fair in Sofia on March 15, 2006.



The Fulbright booth at the 9th Private Schools Exhibition in Sofia.

Kristen Ghodsee, *The Red Riviera: Gender, Tourism and Postsocialism on the Black Sea* (Duke University Press, 2005)



This compelling ethnography of women working in Bulgaria's popular sea and ski resorts challenges the idea that women have consistently fared worse than men in Eastern Europe's transition from socialism to a market economy. For decades western European tourists have flocked to Bulgaria's beautiful beaches and mountains; tourism is today one of the few successful-and expanding-sectors

of the country's economy. Even at the highest levels of management, employment in the tourism industry has long been dominated by women. Kristen Ghodsee explains why this is and how women working in the industry have successfully negotiated their way through Bulgaria's capitalist transformation while the fortunes of most of the population have plummeted. She highlights how, prior to 1989, the communist planners sought to create full employment for all at the same time that they steered women into the service sector. The women given jobs in tourism obtained higher educations, foreign language skills, and experiences working with Westerners, all of which positioned them to take advantage of the institutional changes eventually brought about by privatization.

Dr. Kristen Ghodsee, the author of *The Red Riviera: Gender, Tourism and Postsocialism on the Black Sea* (Duke University Press, 2005), has her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley and is an assistant professor at Bowdoin College. Her articles on gender in Bulgaria have been published in journals such as *Signs*, *Gender and Women's Studies Quarterly*, *The International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, *L'Homme: Zeitschrift für Feministische Geschichtswissenschaft* and *Human Rights Dialogue*. Kristen Ghodsee was a Fulbright student in Bulgaria in 1999-2000. In 2005-2006 she was a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC and in 2006-2007 she will be a fellow at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study where she will be working on her second monograph on gender issues in Bulgaria.

The book can be purchased from amazon.com or directly from Duke University Press at dukeupress.edu

Cultural Enrichment Activities for U.S. Fulbright Grantees



Trip to Borovets, February 2006.

Process and Tradition: Textile Design by Computer



An exhibition of the work of the students of Dr. Phyllis Bell Miller, Fulbright scholar and visiting professor from Mississippi State University, January 2006.

2006 - 2007 FULBRIGHT GRANTS COMPETITION

The Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange is pleased to announce the 2006-2007 competition for:

Fulbright senior scholar grants	- five months for research and lecturing
Fulbright graduate study grants	- ten months for Master's, Ph.D. and non-degree programs
Fulbright - University of Oklahoma grant	- two year MBA program
Hubert H. Humphrey fellowships	- one year mid-career professional development

University professors, researchers, university graduates and mid-career professionals are invited to compete for the respective program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Bulgarian citizenship. Receipt of a fellowship is contingent upon the applicant's ability to receive and maintain a U.S. visa. Individuals who are gainfully employed in the USA, or who are U.S. citizens or who have a close relative (spouse, mother, father, sister, or brother) who is a U.S. citizen or legal resident (green card holder) are not eligible for a fellowship.
- Applicants for graduate study grants must hold at least a Bachelor's degree.
- Applicants for senior scholar grants must hold a Doctoral (Ph.D.) degree.
- Valid scores on TOEFL, GRE, GMAT, where applicable.
- Applicants for graduate study grants should be under 40 years of age.
- Applicants already studying in the U.S. are ineligible to apply for grants.

Candidates will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, or sex.

More details and application forms can be obtained at the Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange "Fulbright" starting July 11, 2005 and on INTERNET: fulbright.bg

Head office address: Sofia, 17, Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd., 1st floor, Rooms # 9, # 15.

Visiting hours: Monday-Friday, 2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m., Tel. 980 8212 or 981 6830

Regional offices:

Plovdiv 4000, 42 Knyaz Alexander I St., tel. (032) 652 866

Bourgas 8000, 58 Slivnitsa St., tel. (056) 842 453

Rousse 7017, University of Rousse, 38 Riga St., tel. (082) 846 106

Varna 9007, Varna University of Economics, 24 Evlogi Georgiev St., Office 105A, tel. 0899 126798

Stara Zagora 6010, Trakiiski University, 9 Armeiska St., DIPKU, Office 121, tel. (042) 601 563

Veliko Turnovo 5000, University of Veliko Turnovo, Main Campus, Office 524, tel. (062) 639 929

Sliven 8800, Technical University - Sliven, 59 Bourgasko shosse Blvd., tel. (044) 667 545

Smolyan 4700, 85 Bulgaria Blvd., Office 101, tel. (0301) 63 680

Vidin 3700, Tsar Simeon Veliki High School, 6 Targovska St., tel. (094) 606 734

Deadline for submitting applications: October 1, 2005

Application sets in three copies should be mailed to:

Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange "Fulbright",
P.O.Box 288, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Учебен център при Комисия "Фулбрайт"-
ул. "Панайот Волов" № 1, ет. 2, ап. 6, София 1504, тел. 944 0441
Подготовка за: TOEFL, SAT, GRE, GMAT; английски език - всички нива

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

7th INTERNATIONAL FULBRIGHT CONFERENCE CULTURE, EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP TODAY AND TOMORROW May 12 - 13, 2006, Sofia, Bulgaria

The 7th international Fulbright conference will be held in Sofia on May 12-13, 2006. It is organized and sponsored by the Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange. The theme of the conference "Culture, Education and Leadership Today and Tomorrow" incorporates the manifold trends, changes and transformations affecting our world in the new age. The main purpose of the conference has three aspects:

- marking the 60th anniversary of the Fulbright Program
- sustaining the tradition to hold an international Fulbright conference on a significant theme every two years since 1994
- drawing public attention to the achievements of the Fulbright program and its capacity to help mutual understanding through intercultural dialogue.

Topics

The main theme of the conference will be illuminated by discussions on a variety of topics and subtopics, e.g. the changing nature of culture in the new age; culture and globalization; education and culture; globalization and

internationalisation of education; Bulgarian education and the challenges of EU accession; intercultural communication in the changing socio-political and cultural environment; modern leadership; leadership and education; organizational culture and leadership; management and leadership etc.

Participants may propose other topics and subtopics related to the main theme.

Conference sessions

There will be four types of sessions in the conference program: plenary session, workshops, roundtable and panel sessions.

Participants

The main contributors to the conference are expected to be distinguished scholars and educators from the U.S., Europe and Bulgaria, US Fulbrighters in Bulgaria and Europe, Bulgarian Fulbright alumni, representatives of U.S., European and Bulgarian educational and government institutions. Expected number: 70

PROPOSAL INFORMATION FORM

Title of presentation:		Department:	
Session format: 1 plenary 2 panel 3 roundtable 4 workshop <i>Please circle the appropriate number</i>		Faculty:	
Details of presenter:		Institution:	
Name:		Address:	
Job title:		Telephone/Fax:	
		E-mail:	
		<i>Abstract or summary of presentation (not more than 100 words)</i>	

Completed proposal information forms should be sent before March 30, 2006 to:
Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission
 17 Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
 Telephone: (359 2) 981 85 67, Fax: (359 2) 988 45 17, E-mail: fulbright@fulbright.bg

FISI 2006

FULBRIGHT INTERNATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE
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: politics and international relations; business and economics; law, communication, education, science, social studies, art, culture and Bulgarian studies. All courses are taught in English by distinguished Bulgarian, European and American professors, most of whom are Fulbright grantees or alumni.

The **FISI** courses are addressed to undergraduate and graduate students, university faculty and professionals.

This year **FISI** is scheduled to take place from August 7 to August 19 in the mountain resort Borovets. Prospective participants have the unique opportunity to form the final program by selecting courses that fit their interests. A tentative program with brief course descriptions and biographical notes for the lecturers will be posted on **FISI** website (www.fisi-bg.info) in the beginning of April, 2006. Only courses that have adequate enrollment (at least 6-7 students) will be finally offered. Along with the academic program, **FISI** offers a rich cultural program and opportunities for intercultural communication.

FISI is open to applicants from any country. Applicants can be undergraduate or post-graduate students, teachers, lecturers or professionals. They will be considered without regard to race, religion, sex and/or physical impairment. A complete application must contain:

1. A completed application form
2. Diploma for completed higher education or an academic transcript
3. CV
4. Two references from university faculty or employer

Participation in the Fulbright International Summer Institute is paid.

- For EU and US citizens - 600 euro for two weeks (300 euro per week)
- For non-EU and non-US citizens - 450 euro for two weeks (225 euro per week)
- For Bulgarian citizens - 400 leva for two weeks (200 leva per week)

Participation fee paid to the Fulbright Commission in Bulgaria includes tuition, meals, accommodation, cultural enrichment program and local transportation. A limited number of merit-based grants will be awarded to Bulgarian and non-EU citizens.

The **Fulbright International Summer Institute** reaffirms the validity and potential of the Fulbright idea of building mutual understanding through exchange of knowledge and cultural values. It provides a wonderful opportunity for students and faculty to demonstrate and share their knowledge, professional expertise, teaching and learning skills, enthusiasm and good will.

If you want to learn more about the history of this remarkable program, to review outcomes of previous projects and to learn more about the upcoming **FISI 2006** visit **FISI** website www.fisi-bg.info

FULBRIGHT INTERNATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE

2006

WWW.FISI-BG.INFO

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The FISI courses are addressed to undergraduate and graduate students, university faculty and professionals.

University professors and experts are invited to submit proposals for a one- or two-week course (20 hours) in their respective fields. Courses will be held between August 7 and 19, 2006.

Please e-mail your course proposal in English (400-500 words) by March 15, 2006 to rkaneva@fulbright.bg, accompanied by the following information:

- a. **Course Title**
- b. **Course description**
- c. **Names of presenter**
- d. **Position or title of presenter**
- e. **Employer or affiliated institution**
- f. **Mailing address**
- g. **Telephone/fax numbers**
- h. **E-mail address**
- i. **Resume (400-500 words)**

For further information please contact

Rada Kaneva

Program Officer, U.S. Grantees

Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission

17, Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd.

Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Tel: 359 2 980 82 12

Fax: 359 2 988 45 17

E-mail: rkaneva@fulbright.bg

To Chicago and Back

Dr. Diana Popova is assistant professor of English and American Literature at Bourgas Free University. She is now working as external evaluator for FLERTUV- TEMPUS project at Surrey University, UK, Oldenburg University, Germany; and the Technical Universities in Samara, Saratov and Volgograd, Russia. As a Fulbright scholar in 2005, Dr. Popova taught a course on "Bulgarian History and Culture and EU Integration" at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

North Carolina and Chapel Hill

Speaking with fervor or criticism about any part of the USA that has made a strong impression on you is like looking at a tiny piece of an immense kaleidoscope. Generalizing about the rest of the country can be shortsighted and misleading. Each state and often each city or small community has to be experienced and appreciated on its own.

North Carolina is a state that embraces you with gorgeous mountains and hills, hundreds of lakes and rivers, waterfalls, and a very pleasing climate. The one season that is not to be missed here is fall. As a friend once commented, they "fall nicely in the south". The richness, depth and variety of fall colors provided not only by nature's palette and brushes but also by the variety of plants that grow here, are breathtaking. The warmth and tranquility of the season imbue you with harmony.

From the magnificence of the Great Smoky Mountains, and the beauty of the Blue Ridge Parkway, to the coast and the fragile islands of the Outer Banks, North Carolina has plenty to offer. It is a very attractive place that casts a spell on you and makes you want to visit again and again. It is easy to live in the South but it is not easy to understand it



At the Niagara Falls

for various reasons and in different ways. The southern spirit and the southern character can be extremely pleasing and yet full of idiosyncrasies. Congeniality and reservation, leisurely and hurried ways, Caucasian, Afro-American and Asian faces, all mix together to create the fascinating patchwork character of many cities in North Carolina.

My destination in North Carolina was Chapel Hill. As many other first-time visitors, I was surprised at how small the city was. The student population comprises more than half of the total number of residents and gives the city a special atmosphere.

The University of North Carolina is the eleventh oldest institution of higher education and the oldest public university in the United States. It was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1789. The first student arrived on foot from Wilmington, February 12, 1795 and was the only student for two weeks.

Speaking of transportation, it should be mentioned that there are public buses running on a strict schedule around the city of Chapel Hill and you pay nothing for a bus ride. This is a project supported jointly by Local Government and the University of Chapel Hill. By the way, do not expect the bus driver to stop at every bus stop if there are no people waiting there. If you wish to get off at a bus stop, all you need to do is

"press yellow tape to signal for stop" or, as it is indicated on some buses just "press to signal". And remember that you cannot get on a bus through the door in the rear. You have more freedom getting off a bus - you can use any of the two doors if the one in the front is not being used by people getting on the bus. All you need to do is keep your eyes and ears wide open for a few days until you get used to the way things work here.

But even if you are not too observant, you cannot miss the "Go Heels" sign above the windshield of buses a couple of days before the NC football team plays a game. Tar Heels is North Carolinians' curious nickname. Originally, it was a derogatory term for Southerners involved in the production and export of pitch, turpentine and pine tar. It became the nickname of North Carolina allegedly after a Civil War battle in Virginia. Only the Carolina troops were able to hold their position. One story has it that some retreating Virginia soldiers asked them, "Any more tar down in the Old North State, boys?" Their reply was, "No, not a bit. Old Jeff's (Confederate president Jefferson Davis) bought it all up. He's going to put it on you'ns heels to make you stick better in the next fight." When General Robert E. Lee heard this story, he exclaimed, "God bless the Tar Heel boys." The people of North Carolina are vehemently proud of their state and their nickname.

Those who expect Chapel Hill to be a stereotypical small Southern city are soon to discover that it is not. There are so many residents who have come from other parts of the USA that it seems there is a shortage of native North Carolinians. Scientists, researchers and university professors have been attracted in large numbers to this city which not only offers exceptional job opportunities, but is also a wonderful place to live. It is often referred to as "the southern part of heaven". Some call it "the Republic of Chapel Hill" for the liberal manifestations of democracy. The spirit of liberalism is much stronger here than anywhere else in the South.

It is impossible to understand the spirit and drive of the people living and working in Chapel Hill if you do not see it in the context of the Research Triangle Park. The other two cities of the Triangle are Raleigh and Durham. The Research Triangle Park (commonly known as the RTP) is the largest planned research and development park in the United States. It encompasses 6,800 wooded acres and is home to 94 different companies employing 36,000 people, of which nearly 1,800 are Ph.D.'s. This favorable working environment has contributed to one of the highest growth rates and lowest unemployment rates in the country. The 2.4 percent unemployment rate is far below the national average.

In the 1950s things were a lot different in North Carolina. It had the second-lowest per capita income in the United States. It was dependent on three industries which today still remain important: textiles, tobacco and furniture. Graduates from the three major local educational research institutions, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University in Durham and the North Carolina State University in Raleigh, were leaving the area in a classic case of brain drain. The solution to the number of problems created by the above circumstances was envisaged to be the establishment of a research and development park with a research institution owned by the three universities. The state was helped economically considerably once businesses started coming to the Park. The term "Research Triangle" originated from the location of the three universities which have a combined enrollment of over 60,000 students.

More of the USA The Niagara Falls

I did not go to Chicago as the Bulgarian classic author Aleko Konstantinov did, but like him I went to the Niagara Falls. My high school memories of the literary analysis, tearing to pieces Aleko's "To Chicago and Back", are a little depressing. The colossal magnitude and awe-inspiring effect of the natural wonder was lost to most of us. When I saw the Niagara Falls it was like revisiting a place so familiar, yet so unfathomably unknown. I certainly cannot outdo Aleko's descriptive talent, but I can at least try to convey the enchantment which this natural wonder cast on me.

It was a cold, windy and overcast day, much the day that people prefer to stay at home. If I wanted to see the Falls, it had to be on this day as my trip to give a lecture at the State University of New York in Fredonia was a short one. My excitement was moderate and my curiosity - well informed. I had read a lot and seen many programs about the Niagara Falls.

Any verbal description will fall short of rendering the enormity and power of the falling water, the awesome splendor of the vapor above the abyss, the out-of-this-world rainbow above the caldron of thundering water. The effect is that of an erupting volcano of water going inside the earth.

New York

New York is as diverse as one cannot even imagine. Mammoth is the right adjective to use when talking about its world famous sky scrapers, the sprawl of the city, the

Metro system and the airports, the businesses conducted there, the entertainments and the variety of restaurants, the art created and displayed in this bustling mega polis. Down-to-earth is the appropriate word for most New Yorkers, rushing to their destination in their everyday attempt to outrun time, and yet ready to stop and give you directions if you seem to be lost.

A walk down Broadway overwhelms you with the non-stop neon advertisements and theater posters and makes choosing a show that you would like to see a hard decision. The endless stream of tourists is most prominent on weekends when the rest of New Yorkers who normally work in the area are not there.

Take a train to China Town and you are in a different world. Every inch of the street is taken by Chinese-owned shops and street vendors' stalls. The most unusual foods, fruit and vegetables are sold right on the street. Even if you would like to stop for a while and take in some of the bustle or just watch people, you cannot find a quiet place. Soon the mayhem of the street sucks you in and before you know it, you are away from the place you have decided to linger at.

Most of the different quarters of Manhattan have a very distinct atmosphere rendered by the architecture, the residents or both. Various ethnic communities have created their own little worlds inside the huge city. They speak their own language in the street and in the shops and restaurants. Their ethnic restaurants are cherished

places for the food connoisseurs. The majority of the waiters there normally speak a mixture of English and their own language, but eventually, you manage to figure out what the meal with the strange name on the menu will contain.

West Village, also known as Greenwich Village is one off. The little streets lined by old houses resemble the streets of a European city. But to the New Yorker they are one of the symbols of New York. Restaurants and coffee shops, bookstores and florists - they are all small and outstandingly special.

New York is as ever alive and thriving. Except for ONE thing - the big hole where the Twin Towers used to be. This place is now marked on New York maps as Ground Zero. The hole will soon disappear as there is a huge construction under way. But the hole in the hearts of people will remain. Each time they look at the skyline of the city and do not see the buildings of the World Trade Center, they are reminded of the tragedy of 9/11. New Yorkers have emerged from the disaster even stronger and more united. And hopefully, the rest of the world has, too.

On a brighter note, the time I spent in the USA as a Fulbright scholar was a most wonderful and enriching experience for me. The cultural and academic growth that I underwent through my numerous contacts with American professors, friends and people in the street will continue to be a significant part of my mindset, and professional and personal integrity.

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Out of America

THE VILLAGE LIFE

Sasha Galitzki

Sasha Galitzki is studying ecotourism and its potential as a tool for economic development in rural areas, where employment opportunities, incomes, and living standards are lowest. She spent the first half of her ten-month grant period as a Fulbright student in Sofia studying the current state of ecotourism and rural economic development in Bulgaria. She is spending the second half of her grant period in rural communities such as Bansko studying obstacles to ecotourism development and economically and environmentally sustainable solutions

My research has recently led me to move from Sofia to Bansko, a mountain village that has experienced considerable tourism development that I'll be studying over the next few months. In the weeks since my arrival I find that my life has changed considerably and in many ways has come to resemble that of any Bansko native. Although the tourist facilities are expanding rapidly, Bansko is still a typical Bulgarian village in many ways. The streets are cobbled with large round stones, which look very picturesque but resemble large ice cubes when one tries to walk over them in the thin layer of snow and ice that covers the village right now. Despite the dangerous walking conditions, wrinkled babas (grandmothers) in thick layers of clothes and flowery headscarves venture out into the streets every day to run errands and chat with friends they pass.

I trace their steps on the way to the grocery each day where I buy everything I need for the day fresh because I have no freezer and only a very small refrigerator. I carry 10 liter jugs of water home every week or so because the tap water is unpotable. I wash my dishes by hand in the sink and my laundry by hand in a large basin. I walk nearly everywhere I need to go - often a couple kilometers at a time - regardless of the outside temperature, which can drop below -17



degrees Celsius (0 degrees Fahrenheit). If I'm cold (which I often am), I try to coax a fire into life in my woodstove or simply pile on more layers of clothes.

Having lived in Southern California for the past four years, it's been particularly difficult to adjust to the cold. Glass-fronted refrigerators that store beverages for sale are often warmer inside than outside; a beer my boyfriend bought recently began to freeze as soon as the vendor removed it from the refrigerator. I often leave home wearing two or three pairs of socks, three or four pairs of pants, and up to six layers on my upper body. I'd sooner forget my keys than my hat and gloves.

My friends back home in America would doubtless pity me and my lack of so many of the luxuries that they take for granted. Those in California would shudder to hear of the temperatures here. But although it's been difficult to adjust to some aspects of life here, I am certainly learning some interesting skills and - if nothing else - I will always appreciate standard American amenities on a level that none of my American friends will ever reach. And perhaps most importantly, I am also learning more about the Bulgarian culture, people, and language than I ever could have in Sofia, where I lived and socialized with primarily foreigners.

Here in Bansko, my boyfriend and I rent part of the home of a family that runs one of Bansko's oldest Inns, the Dedo Pene, Bulgarian for 'Grandfather Pene'. The Grandfather Pene's grandson is the Inn's owner and our landlord. He's usually home during the day, sawing and hammering away in his workshop around back. He often comes over to our part of the house to pour us a decanter of his homemade wine from the 10-liter former water jugs he keeps it in. Every now and then he invites us over to his part of the house to enjoy more of his wine, accompanied with cheeses, sausages, and nuts that he graciously lays out for us.

If I try to play the hostess for a change and invite him over to our side for some tea or coffee, he bobbles his head in a Bulgarian 'no' and reminds me "az piam samo vino, Sashka, samo vino" - he drinks only wine, nothing else. Although he speaks some English we converse mostly in Bulgarian - mine stilted and hesitant, his consciously slow, annunciated, and encouraging. Under his guidance, my Bulgarian vocabulary - and confidence - has flourished.

My Bulgarian language has benefited from other friendships I have been building here too. All of my new friends are Bulgarians - in fact, my boyfriend and I have yet to meet another foreign resident of Bansko. Both of us volunteer as ski and snowboard instructors one or two days a week in exchange for seasons passes to the ski resort. Thus, most of our new friends here are other instructors, some Bansko natives and others from all around the country.

On days we work we get up early and get a ride from a coworker through town and up the hill to the foot of the gondola. We usually spend an hour or two in the company rental shop with the full time shop employees and instructors until we head up the mountain to start lessons. We all chat, talk about anything and everything related to skiing and snowboarding, and even have the occasional indoor snowball fight. Some of them speak English quite well, but nearly everyone speaks to me in Bulgarian anyways, and teases me good-naturedly as I struggle to

understand and reply. Between them and my landlord my Bulgarian is improving at a rate I never would have imagined!

On one side of the rental shop there is a stand that sells fresh donuts. The donut man knows me by now, and calls out "Hey, English-lady, come have donut!" whenever I pass by. Every now and then I'll give in to temptation and stand in line to watch the him plop dough into a fascinating machine that pulls the dough through a tray of hot oil, flips them 180 degrees to cook the other side, lifts them out of the oil, and deposits them on a tray to cool. The donut man then shovels them into little cardboard bowls, squeezes a sauce of one's choice (chocolate is my personal favorite) on top, and stabs a few colorful plastic mini-forks into it all. The bowls start to stain immediately from the grease and sauce, which inevitably dirty one's hands and face as well. But despite the mess and the nagging thought in the back of the mind that your arteries are probably clogging, one can't help but feel extremely satisfied after eating these fresh donuts.

My other favorite Bulgarian snack is palachinka - a large thin pancake similar to the French crepe that is generally filled with cheese, chopped meat, jam, honey, or chocolate spread. I've been developing quite an addiction to this Bulgarian delight, such that the guys in the shop are beginning to tease me and call me Ms. Palachinka. The ladies at the two stands I frequent (one near the shop, one near home) have come to know me very well. Each is well schooled in twirling the pan to evenly coat it with batter; gracefully flipping it; and artfully sliding the final product onto a disposable mini-tray for me to take away.

With the help of my daily dose of palachinki I am finding myself more than able to cope with the challenges of my new village life. Under the cheerful guidance of the village natives that are becoming a part of my life I am rapidly becoming 'bulgarianized', and hope that by the time I leave Bansko I might be half as tough as the hardy babas I pass each day on the slick cobblestones.



The Bulgarian Fulbright Newsletter is published by the Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange

Please send contributions and comments to:
Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission
17, Al. Stamboliiski Blvd. • Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
tel: +359 (2) 981 85 67 • fax: +359 (2) 988 45 17
e-mail: fulbright@fulbright.bg • www.fulbright.bg

