

## Bulgarian Fulbright Grantees in AY 2012-13

On June 29, 2012, the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission held a one-day pre-departure orientation for the Bulgarian Fulbright grantees who are to study, teach and live in the U.S. during the AY 2012-13.

Recipients of grants for AY 2012-13 are 5 senior scholars, 5 graduate students, and one doctoral student in the visiting researcher category. The scholarship for the study of civil society was awarded to the chairman of a non-governmental organization, engaged in the promotion of road safety.



The Fulbright Commission expresses its gratitude to the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, the Bulgarian Fulbright alumni and the U.S. Fulbrighters in Bulgaria for their participation, comments and practical advice. We wish all grantees a very successful and rewarding experience in the U.S.!

*Host institution in the U.S.:* University of California-Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

### **Dr. Reneta Bozhankova**

*Field of specialization:* Slavic Studies

*Home institution:* Sofia University "St.Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Slavic Studies

*Host institution in the U.S.:* University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

### **Dr. Irena Atanassova**

*Field of specialization:* Soil Chemistry

*Home institution:* "Nikola Poushkarov" Institute of Soil Science, Department of Soil Chemistry

*Host institution in the U.S.:* University of Georgia, Athens, GA

### **Dr. Yantsislav Yanakiev**

*Field of specialization:* Sociology

*Home institution:* "G. S. Rakovski" National Defense Academy, Defense Advanced Research Institute

*Host institution in the U.S.:* Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), Patrick Air Force Base, FL

### **Dr. Dobrinka Georgieva**

*Field of specialization:* Logopedics

*Home institution:* South West University - Blagoevgrad, Department of Logopedics (Speech and Language Pathology)

*Host institution in the U.S.:* Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

## Senior Scholars

### **Dr. Snezhina Dimitrova**

*Field of specialization:* Linguistics

*Home institution:* Sofia University "St Kliment Ohridski", Department of English and American Studies

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## Research Scholarship for the Study of Civil Society

### Daniel Vankov

*Field of specialization:* Road Safety

*Home institution:* Open Youth

*Host institution in the U.S.:* National Organizations for Youth Safety, Gainesville, VA

*Home institution:* Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Law

*Pursued degree:* LLM

*Host institution in the U.S.:* Columbia University, New York, NY

### Nurhan Redzheb

*Field of study:* Urban Planning

*Home institution:* University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia

*Pursued degree:* Master of Urban Design

*Host institution in the U.S.:* Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

## Graduate Students

### George Yankov

*Field of study:* Organizational Psychology

*Home institution:* Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",

Faculty of Philosophy

*Pursued degree:* MA

*Host institution in the U.S.:* Baruch College, The City University of New York, New York, NY

### Boryana Dzhabazova

*Field of study:* Journalism

*Home institution:* Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",

Faculty of Journalism

*Pursued degree:* MA

*Host institution in the U.S.:* New York University, New York, NY

### Antoaneta Asenova

*Field of study:* International Law

*Home institution:* Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",

Faculty of Law

*Pursued degree:* LLM

*Host institution in the U.S.:* Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

## Non-degree Research Grants for Doctoral Students

### Milena Mihaylova

*Field of study:* Management

*Home institution:* University of Economics – Varna

*Host institution in the U.S.:* Columbia University, New York, NY

## 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

### Final Nominations for Bulgarian Fulbright Grantees in AY 2013-2014

Fulbright Interview for Bulgarian Fulbright grantees in AY 2013-2014, June 12-14, 2012



Members of the nomination committee (from left to right): Neda Kristanova, Board member, Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director, Angela Rodel, Board member

### Wrap-up Seminar for Fulbright English Teaching Assistants, AY 2011-12

April 19-21, 2012



Official Opening: From right to left, Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director, Ivanka Tzankova, Director, Programs for Education and Libraries, America for Bulgaria Foundation, Ken Moskowitz, Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Sofia

### 2012 FISL Lottery

**ATANAS SABEV**, graduate student from Sofia University is the winner of the FISL lottery. He will have the chance to attend the 11th edition of the Fulbright International Summer Institute for free. Angela Rodel, Fulbright alumna and Commission Board member, drew the lucky ticket on Thursday afternoon, June 14, in the presence of Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission and Richard Damstra, Commission Treasurer and Attache for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Embassy.



Angela Rodel (left) draws FISL lottery's lucky winner



Participants



Teachers from "Tsar Simeon Veliki" Secondary School in Vidin presenting on the ETA program

## 2012 NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo Houston, TX



*Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission and EducationUSA adviser Snezhana Teneva at the EducationUSA Country Fair*

NAFSA's 64th Annual Conference & Expo *Ideals and Impact in International Education* was held in Houston, TX, on May 27-June 1, 2012. More than 8,500 international education professionals from around the world discussed the most crucial topics in international education and exchange today, from study abroad and international student and scholar advising to global education trends and international education policy.

A major highlight of the conference was the International Education Expo Hall, which featured exhibitors representing more than

400 organizations from around the world, including colleges and universities, study abroad and intensive-English programs, embassies and government agencies, and more.

ED Julia Stefanova and EducationUSA adviser Snezhana Teneva attended the conference and made use of the many opportunities to obtain new information, network and promote the Fulbright Program in Bulgaria. Bulgaria was represented at the Poster Fair *Best Practices in International Enrollment Management* and at the EducationUSA Country Fair with a special stand, visited by over 150 participants.

## Young Talent Awards



*Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director, Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission (second from left to right); Grigor Porozhanov, Director, Science Directorate, Ministry of Education, Youth and Science (left); Margarita Shahpazova Chief expert, Science Directorate (right), and the two winners of "Young Talent" National Competition organized by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, and supported by the Fulbright Commission.*



### БЪЛГАРО-АМЕРИКАНСКА КОМИСИЯ ЗА ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЕН ОБМЕН "ФУЛБРАЙТ"

#### УЧЕБЕН ЦЕНТЪР КЪМ КОМИСИЯ "ФУЛБРАЙТ"

- Подготовка за тестовете iB TOEFL, SAT, GRE, GMAT, IELTS
- Подготовка по английски език за граждани и фирми
- Подготовка по бизнес английски и бизнес кореспонденция
- Компютърна самоподготовка за iB TOEFL, GRE, GMAT
- Справочна библиотека

#### БЕЗПЛАТНИ УСЛУГИ ЗА КУРСИСТИ

- Разговорен английски с преподаватели от САЩ
- Отстъпки при записване за повече от един курс
- Безплатни 10 часа работа с компютър
- Консултации за обучение в САЩ
- Библиотека с учебна и справочна литература

За информация: София 1504, ул. Панайот Волов 1, етаж II, тел. 944 0441, E-mail: [studycenter@fulbright.bg](mailto:studycenter@fulbright.bg), [www.fulbright.bg](http://www.fulbright.bg)

## Undergraduate Admissions and Scholarships, AY 2012-2013

In FY 2012, eleven of the regular visitors of the Fulbright advising center were accepted to US universities and colleges, with a total scholarship amount of over \$ 2 million USD (\$ 545,316 x 4 years = \$ 2,181,264). Five of all accepted students were granted full scholarships and six received financial aid. Among the schools where our advisees will be studying are: Stanford University, CA; Yale University, CT; Princeton University, NJ; New York University in Abu Dhabi (NYUAD); University of Richmond, VA; Grinnell College, IA; Colby College, ME; St John's University, NY; Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA; Ramapo College, NJ; Suffolk University, MA, Dickinson College, PA, and University of Pennsylvania, PA. Here is a list of universities and scholarships granted to Bulgarian applicants:

College or University	Scholarship Amount
Stanford, CA	\$ 65,686 (full scholarship)
Yale, CT	\$ 63,130 (full scholarship)
New York University in Abu Dhabi (NYUAD)	\$ 62,944 (full scholarship)
University of Richmond, VA	\$ 56,000 (full scholarship)
Grinnell College, IA	\$ 52,988 (full scholarship)
Princeton University, NJ	\$ 46,000
Colby College, ME	\$ 42,580
St John's University, NY	\$ 29,000
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA	\$ 26,500
Ramapo College, NJ	\$ 25,000
Suffolk University, MA	\$ 20,000

## U.S. University Presentations and Interviews



Hult International Business School, 30 June 2012

## Fulbright Accomplishments Scheherazade

Kathryn Olive Posin, a choreographer from New York with a whirlwind career, came to Sofia first in 2011 to stage Stepping Stones at The Sofia National Theater for Opera and Ballet as part of the American Ballet for Bulgaria initiative. This year Kathy is back with another ballet project, Scheherazade, as well as to teach a course, The Art of Choreography, at New Bulgarian University.



**American Ballet for Bulgaria**  
Choreographer: Kathryn Olive Posin,  
Fulbright scholar, AY 2011-2012



Kathy Posin (second from right to left) and students from New Bulgarian University

## Bulgaria Folk Dance



Fulbright student Lisa Le Fevre dressed in a Bulgarian national costume at a performance of the Bulgarian Folk Dance group in New York City

## Out of America

### Berlin and Thessaloniki Enrichment Seminars for Fulbright Grantees

**Jamie Dahman**

**U.S. Fulbright graduate student in voice performance**  
**Host Institution: The Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv**

Both Berlin and Thessaloniki Enrichment Seminars were wonderful experiences. The seminar in Berlin was huge, and attended by around 300 Fulbright scholars from 23 countries from all over Europe. The focus of the seminar was networking, so there were built-in networking times so we could "mix and mingle" with people from other countries. I spent most of my time with the other musicians, as I was there performing. However, the panel discussions, particularly the closing panel discussing the future of European integration, were interesting and enlightening. Given the crisis in the Eurozone, the talks were especially relevant. I hadn't spent much time thinking about the situation (outside of following it in the newspapers), so what these scholars had to say was engaging.



*Jamie Dahman (first from left to right) among the participants in the Music Gala, Berlin Seminar, 2012*

The seminar in Thessaloniki was my favorite of the two. It was a smaller seminar, with only around 30 Fulbright scholars from countries in Eastern Europe. There were more opportunities to interact with colleagues, exchange ideas, and compare our in-country experiences. There were guest speakers on both days of the seminar, but the highlight and focus of the program were presentations of research by Fulbrighters. There were 4 different panels, and speakers were given 10-12 minutes to cover their research. Fulbright Scholar research was a secondary focus in Berlin—there were fewer panels, and scholars were only given 5 minutes to speak; the focus was the panels and keynote speakers by invited academics and journalists. I would recommend any future Fulbrighters take advantage of the opportunities to attend these seminars in future years.

**Nathaniel Widelitz**

**U.S. Fulbright graduate student in ethnomusicology**  
**Host Institution: Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Art Studies, Sofia**

One of the ways that my year doing ethnomusicological research in Sofia, Bulgaria has been enhanced has been through networking with other Fulbrighters who are also spending this year in Europe. In late March and

early April, I, along with several of my fellow Scholars in Bulgaria, had the opportunity to do just that, first in Berlin, and then in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Visiting Berlin from March 18th to 22nd was a real treat for me. Though I'd been to Germany several times, I had never been to Berlin, and it turned out to be as history- and culture-filled as I had hoped. The time of the 500-or-so of us who descended upon the city was essentially divided between panels on topics related either to the history or present issues of Berlin and Europe at large, meeting other Fulbrighters living in Europe, and official functions at a few of Berlin's important landmarks. By the time I left, I had met many Scholars from other countries and learned a little about Berlin's place in the recent history of Europe.



*The Fulbright group in Greece*

The seminar in Thessaloniki, though much smaller (consisting of only about thirty participants), was another great experience for me, as I had never been to Greece; it being so close, it had been on my list of places to visit since my grant began. From April 1st to 5th, those of us who participated in this seminar experienced many of the same things as in Berlin, with the major difference being a greater focus on the presentations of the researchers. The smaller size of the conference meant that we were all able to meet each other, and, like the Berlin seminar, I left with a sense of having gotten a better handle on the experiences of other Fulbrighters in Europe.

**Fred Guerrier**

**U.S. Fulbright graduate student in film making**  
**Host Institution: Vreme Film Studios, Sofia**

The Greek Enrichment Seminar was a great success. I was able to hear about the kind of work that my fellow Fulbrighters were doing, all the while discovering Thessaloniki, in all of its cluttered charm. The highlight of the seminar was the series of Fulbright project presentations. The variety of topics and approaches to research was inspiring. I also appreciated the fact that the Greek Fulbright commission facilitated a dialogue about the country's economic situation. Guest speaker Professor Keridis's presentation provided a clear, contextualized view of the debt crisis. I left the seminar having learned more about Greece, the Balkan region as a whole and more motivated to move forward with my own work.

**Disclaimer:** *The text is published in its original and unedited version.*

## To Chicago and Back

### Dimiter Antonov

*Dimiter Antonov obtained his D. Eng. degree from the Geological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. As a Fulbright scholar in AY 2011-12, he conducted research at the University of California, Riverside, on "Modeling of radionuclide transport in variably saturated media with respect to accompanying geochemical conditions and reactions."*

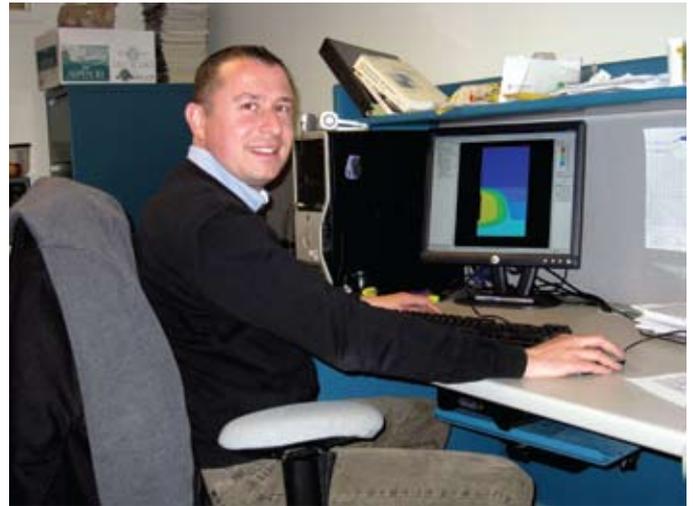
#### Environment, Modeling and Human Health

Working more than eleven years in the research of radionuclide transport in the environment, a part of the engineering geology (soil physics) and hydrogeology fields, the main issue was how we could better assess potential hazards to environmental safety and people's health. In order to accomplish these requirements, there is a need for both experimental/field data of the properties of geological strata, especially in the unsaturated (vadose) zone and a precise modeling of the water and mass transport in the local geosphere based on that data for the period of harmful radioactive impact. The reliability of the computer simulations depends on the computer code and the correct representation of the natural processes, and that is the reason to choose professor Dr. Šimůnek from the University of California, Riverside (UCR) as a host.

The University of California, Riverside is one of 10 universities within the prestigious University of California system. Its current enrollment is over 19 000 students attending different colleges, divisions and schools. According to U.S. News & World Report (2011-12) and Leiden University (2011), UCR is ranked 44th among national public universities and 29th of the 500 top universities worldwide. With about two hundred publications in the fields of numerical modeling of water flow and solute transport, parameter estimation of soil hydraulic properties, and major ion chemistry modeling of biogeochemical processes all being accepted in international journals, Prof. Šimůnek is one of the top researchers in water and mass transport assessment studies in unsaturated media. He has also developed ten computer codes, two of which, HYDRUS 2D/3D and HP1, I intensively use in my research work. These programs are studied in several courses worldwide, including at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria.

I would like to mention that the HYDRUS 2D/3D is a powerful software package for simulating water, heat, and solute movement in two- and three-dimensional, variably saturated media. It numerically solves the Richards equation for saturated-unsaturated water flow and the convection-dispersion equation for heat and solute transport. Besides, the program HP1 contains modules simulating (i) transient water flow in variably-saturated media, (ii) the transport of multiple components, (iii) mixed equilibrium/kinetic biogeochemical reactions, and (iv) heat transport. Although the code still uses the Richards equation and convection-dispersion type equations for heat and solute transport, the coupling allows simulation of a broad range of low-temperature biogeochemical reactions in water, the vadose zone, and in ground water systems, including interactions with minerals, gases, and exchangers and sorption surfaces based on thermodynamic equilibrium, kinetic, or mixed equilibrium-kinetic reactions.

During my visit, special attention was paid to the numerical processing of experimental sets of data for the assessment of the unsaturated flow of the geo-



*Modeling of the water flow in a cross-section of area near Kozloduy NPP*

logical layers presented in the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant region. In general, the water flow in unsaturated media is a function of the so-called soil water retention curve. The soil water retention curves of the variably saturated Quaternary sediments, a sequence of silty and clayey loess, red clay, and gravelly clay with high content of carbonate concretions, have been determined on the base of field infiltrometer tests performed with the support of the Belgium Nuclear research Center (SCK-CEN). For that reason, the experimental data were used in the inverse optimization routine of the computer code HYDRUS2D/3D. As a result, five parameters for each type of soil were received. The results were compared with laboratory data of samples from the presented soils. I could summarize that the use of borehole infiltration data proved to be a practical and reliable methodology to obtain field-scale hydraulic properties. The obtained parameters are now a subject of application in the model of radionuclide migration in the area of the Kozloduy NPP. The main objective of the model is to perform simulations for a long-term period transport of key radionuclides from eventual repository in the geosphere using computer code HP1. The model is going to be sensitive to a wide range of geochemical conditions. In addition, one of the aims is to give a better understanding of the change of the adsorption properties (retardation behavior) of the loess and clay soils in the area of Kozloduy NPP.

#### How vast America is . . .

Although well known from many novels, stories, and itineraries, the greatest impression from my visit is how vast everything here is. The feelings and thoughts that are inspired from the infinite sky and roads are both glamorous and thrilling at the same time. Someone had said that our world is a world of limits and boundaries. If the saying is true, the limits are so far away here that somehow a European intuitively understands that you can explore as much as you want and there are no artificially placed boundaries nor conditions. The



Checking the sensors placed in the vadose zone, somewhere in Joshua Tree National Park

roads, the distances, the buildings, everything is enormous, especially in comparison with Bulgaria. As Americans say: "We have space and we are spreading away". Then, you start to understand the reasons for the diversity of both the students on campus and the people all around you. "This is California" is an expression often repeated to me by many people, describing the variety of cultures and nations represented here. Due to their various origins, people seem very gentle and calm. As there is no exact meaning of "foreigner," one could easily adapt to the domestic culture and habits. In my case, I started to feel at home almost instantly. On the other hand, although all of us have been touched by American life, culture, and habits through movies and TV shows, passing through musicals and pop culture, and finishing with fast food restaurants, it was quite a different matter when exposed directly to the surrounding environment.

An admiration of the mightiness of nature and its flora developed from our traveling to Joshua Tree National Park in order to control the apparatuses for three-year research activities. The park is located in southeastern California, and it covers a land area of 3 200 square kilometers, in fact six times bigger than the Sofia Kettle. In fact, it is named for the Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) forests native to the park but it is also very true that around the world the name is primarily associated with the self-titled and one of the greatest albums in rock history performed by U2. A large part of the park, some 1 700 square kilometers, is a designated wilderness area. Straddling the San Bernardino County/Riverside County border, the park includes parts of two famous in Bulgaria deserts, each an ecosystem whose characteristics are determined primarily by elevation: the higher Mojave Desert and lower Colorado Desert. The Little San Bernardino Mountains, which start from Riverside, run through the southwest edge of the park.

## Exploring the "New World"

One of the ways that I get a thrill out of US history and geography is to collect all fifty quarters representing the fifty "United States of America". Although at first, such a task seems kind of simple or even "naive," the "hidden" facts of history, geography and numismatics that are beyond the coins allow one to become acquainted with a lot of facts about America's states in an interesting way.

A very influential experience was our travel to San Antonio, Texas for participation in the International Annual Meeting of the Soil Science Society of America, 2011. Regardless of the important professional benefits and meetings with colleagues from all over the world, in San Antonio the feeling and spirit of Alamo was quite impressive. For those who are not so familiar with one of the epic episodes of the early American history (as I was until that moment), just a brief note: The Alamo is very famous for The Battle of the Alamo, which took place in 1836. Then, one hundred eighty seven brave men (mostly Texans) occupied the former catholic mission. The cause was vital - the independence of Texas from Mexico. On March 6, a force of 5,000 Mexican troops attacked and defeated the "rebels". All those brothers in arms in the Alamo were killed, and "Remember the Alamo!" became the battle cry of the Texans for the rest of the war. I could definitely say that there is no doubt about what the battle has come to symbolize, as you could feel it in the air of Alamo. It is a heroic struggle against impossible odds - a place where men made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

I couldn't skip my experiences with several typical American events: Halloween with all the cute children and some mature ones as well, Thanksgiving Day and the cutting of the stuffed turkey, a final in the high school league of American football near Riverside, with their excited "moms" and "dads" of the players, etc., etc. Surely, it is always good to remember the Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve parties and how they integrate the traditional European with the American lifestyle.

As being a visitor and a Fulbrighter at UCR and in the USA as well, I would like to remember not only the experienced moments, but also the gained knowledge that the way of excellence is a way of persistent work in a suitable environment, that limits and boundaries are mainly within ourselves, and a world without boundaries is really a nice place.

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The Alamo remains in the center of San Antonio