

E-NEWSLETTER ISSUE 6 • DECEMBER 2024

FULBRIGHT 2025: NEW COLLEAGUES, NEW KNOWLEDGE, NEW (CYBER)SHERIFFS

Official Newsletter of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission

Happy New Year! To kick off the 2025 calendar year, this edition of the Fulbright Bulgaria newsletter is focused on all things new. First, we'd like to welcome our newest staffer, Viktoria Dailova, who joined us in August 2024 as the ETA Program Assistant. A native of Plovdiv, Viki studied English at Sofia University and spent time in Poland and Portugal on Erasmus exchanges, so she brings a much-needed cosmopolitan Gen-Z perspective to our team. Read Viki's interview with Pernik ETA Mercedes Janis on her innovative use of acting in the classroom and how she makes a case for marathons (although her students still prefer football). Next, you can find out what research results our newly returned Bulgarian alumni shared at the Fall 2024 Fulbright Open Lectures (spoiler alert: topics ranged from pigs to folksongs to Monte Carlo). Finally, given all the recent headlines about the danger of both fake news and censorship on social media, we ask BG Scholar Alumna and law professor Denitza Toptchiyska whether it is even possible for new "cyber-sheriffs" to govern the Wild West that is the Internet. Discover her expert and optimistic answers.

Fulbright Bulgaria wishes you all a healthy, successful and joyful 2025!



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U.S. GRANTEES

Why Run When You Can Play Football? Pernik ETA Mercedes Janis on Using Acting and Athletics in the Classroom

On October 13, 2024, Fulbright | America for Bulgaria ETA Mercedes Janis checked an item off her bucket list by completing the full 26-mile Wizz Air Sofia Marathon. "This was my first, but definitely not last, marathon" she says. "I've been running consistently for about two years and spent four months training specifically for the Sofia marathon. It was so special to accomplish this in Bulgaria and get to share it with my students. I originally planned on doing a triathlon in the spring, but I may do the Varna marathon instead because of how much I loved the Sofia one!"

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"It was so special to accomplish this in Bulgaria and get to share it with my students."

MERCEDES JANIS
FULBRIGHT ETA TO PERNIK
AY 2024-25



EVENTS

Transcending Boundaries – Expanding Knowledge: Fulbright Open Lectures 2024

The Fulbright Open Lectures, an event sharing and highlighting alumni scholarly and professional achievements, took place right before Thanksgiving on November 27, offering a chance for us all to express our gratitude for and celebrate the opportunities provided by the Fulbright program.

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BULGARIAN GRANTEES

From Kant to Cyberlibertarianism: Can We Really Govern the Internet

Fulbright Bulgaria Alumna Denitza Toptchiyska has studied this question and many more as a legal advisor at the Bulgarian Communications Regulation Commission and later as a researcher and associate professor of law at New Bulgarian University.

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