

A photograph of the Rice Rotunda building, a large, circular, stone-clad structure with a curved facade and multiple windows. A red banner with the word 'CELEBRATING' is visible on the building's exterior. The foreground shows a courtyard area with people sitting at tables.

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FROM TEXTILES TO TECH: FULBRIGHT STUDENTS EMBRACE INTERDISCIPLINARY ADVENTURES

Official Newsletter of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission

This edition of the Fulbright Bulgaria e-newsletter features several of the most academically intrepid members of our current cohort: Plamen Galinov, a Bulgarian Leaders Student at Cornell studying Computer Science with a dash of entrepreneurship, and Eleonora Edreva, a Bulgarian-American Student Researcher bringing together her love of the natural world and her own cultural heritage through exploration of traditional textile dyeing techniques. While Plamen and Ele might seem to come from opposite ends of the academic spectrum that spans from STEM to the arts, they are united in their openness to interdisciplinary thinking and their hunger to expand their hands-on skills by combining multiple fields that at first glance might be unconnected.

We round out this quarter's missive by introducing another cosmopolitan member of our community: Fulbright Bulgaria's EducationUSA Virtual Intern, Francesca Gilbard. Having lived in Ruse, Paris and New York City, she offers sage advice about weaving together the disparate threads of our interests into one vibrant, colorful story – perhaps Ele can help us find the perfect hue? We hope you enjoy these inspiring interviews!



This issue:

Exploring
Intersections: Fulbright
Bulgarian Leader
Plamen Galinov Talks
Computers, Cornell
and Creativity

[PAGE 02](#)

Preserving Color and
Texture: An Interview
with Textile Artist
Eleonora Edreva

[PAGE 03](#)

Keep Your Ambition as
Fearless and Boundless
as a Child's:
Introducing our
EduUSA Virtual Intern,
Francesca Gilbard

[PAGE 03](#)

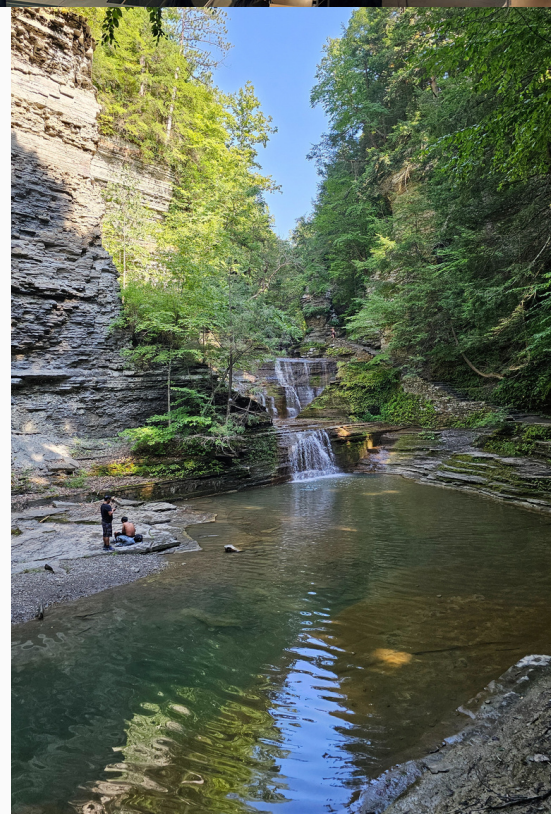


BULGARIAN GRANTEES

Exploring Intersections: Fulbright Bulgarian Leader Plamen Galinov Talks Computers, Cornell and Creativity

Plamen was first inspired by technology at the age of three when his parents purchased the family's first computer. Astonished by the machine, he had no idea it would soon evolve into his greatest dream and passion. As he grew, so did his fascination with computers, prompting him to explore technology independently—experimenting with software, creating small projects, and teaching himself programming. These early experiences fueled his curiosity and eventually led him to dedicate his life to technology.

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*“I’m confident
that the
knowledge I’ve
gained here will
help me realize
my full
potential.”*

PLAMEN GALINOV
FULBRIGHT STUDENT AT
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
AY 2024-25



U.S. GRANTEES

Preserving Color and Culture: An Interview with Textile Artist Eleonora Edreva

Eleonora Edreva, or Ele, as her friends call her, is a Fulbright Student Researcher whose project explores the intersection of biocentric knowledge and traditional crafts through natural dyeing. With Bulgarian roots and a deep passion for textiles, Ele set out to learn from artisans across the country, only to discover that many traditional dyeing techniques have nearly disappeared.

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EDUCATION USA

Keep Your Ambition as Fearless and Boundless as a Child's: Introducing our EduUSA Virtual Intern, Francesca Gilbard

Francesca Gilbard, a Bulgarian-American francophone with roots in Ruse, intuitively embraced an international college journey. After seven years in a French immersion school and studying abroad twice in high school, she joined the Dual BA Program between Columbia University and Sciences Po.

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