



# 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 INTERNATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE PAMPROVO, AUGUST 1-13, 2005

On August 1-13 the Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange conducted its fourth Fulbright International Summer Institute. It took place in Bulgaria's most beautiful mountain resort of Pamporovo and attracted 46 participants from the U.S., Bulgaria, Albania, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia, Macedonia and the Czech Republic.

The participants were offered nine courses in the following areas: "Negotiation and Conflict Resolution", "Global Business Strategy: Globalization, Multinational Corporations, and the Nation-State", "Financial Management", "The European Union: Legal Principles", „American Foreign Policy and the International System in the Age of Globalization", "Southeast Europe in the Context of the New Dynamics of the Euro-Atlantic Relations", "Cooperative Learning and Cultural Sensitivity", and "Cultural Traditions in Bulgaria and Europe". The AY 05-06 Fulbright grantees from the U.S.



*FISI Opening Session at Murgavets Hotel.  
From left to right: Dr. Julia Stefanova, FISI Director; Dimitar Krastanov, Smolyan District Governor; Lyudmila Teneva, Fulbright Coordinator in the town of Smolyan; Deborah Smith, CAO, American Embassy, Bulgaria*

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*Shelley Friend from Northwest Vista College, Texas, USA, teaching a class in "Cooperative Learning and Cultural Sensitivity"*



*FISI participants dancing a Bulgarian horo*

who also attended the summer program studied Bulgarian for three weeks.

All courses were taught in English by distinguished American, European and Bulgarian professors, most of whom were Fulbright grantees and alumni. The lecturers represented various prestigious universities – Harvard University, the University of Michigan, University of Delaware, Cleveland State University,

Northwest Vista College; University of Hull, University of Lincoln; University of National and World Economy, Sofia University, New Bulgarian University, and the Technical University in Sofia.

The FISI participants were also offered a cultural program introducing them to Bulgaria's beautiful nature, rich cultural heritage and the life of Bulgarians today. Unfortunately due to heavy weather conditions all events were cancelled. Thus FISI 2005 put a major emphasis on the studying process. All participants were involved in economic, political and cultural discussions and this turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for students and faculty to demonstrate and share their knowledge, professional expertise, teaching and learning skills, enthusiasm and good mood.

Participants and faculty proclaimed the fourth Fulbright International Summer Institute to be a huge success. They created their own yahoo group with forum and photogallery in order to stay in touch and exchange ideas how to give wider publicity to events like FISI. Events that promote mutual understanding through educational and cultural exchange, that create a global student audience and encourage productive discussions on important and interesting issues, events that provide a stimulating environment for exchange of knowledge and everyone involved is having fun.

***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.*

## *FISI Impressions*

**Claudia Langa**

*Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania*

### **FISI 2005 – WOULD NOT HAVE MISSED IT FOR THE WORLD**

You all know how difficult it is to select a summer school out of the hundreds of programs that are organized every year. It took me a few weeks of research to decide, but the result could not have been more memorable.

The main reasons for choosing this program in the first place were the distinguished scholars that taught the courses and the subjects that seemed very interesting for my future career. They have not disappointed me in any way, as all the courses I have attended were outstanding. During my first week in FISI I have attended three courses in the afternoon and enjoyed mornings and evenings with the dear friends I have made among the participants and the organizers.

Even though I was one of the few students among the teachers enrolled at the course taught by Shelley Friend and Dana Goodrich from the Northwest Vista College in Texas on Cooperative Learning and Cultural Sensitivity, I enjoyed it very much and it made me realize that I would like to teach at some point in my future career.

If you imagined that European Law classes are boring, you have not met Prof. Jo-Carby-Hall of the University of Hull, and Diane Ryland of the University of Lincoln, UK. They have transformed the law course from the usual dull course nobody wants to attend in the University, in a lively and entertaining discussion upon the European Union in all its aspects. During their stay in Pamporovo I had the chance to talk to them informally, learn a lot both on EU and other topics and exchange information about Romania and UK.

During the second week I attended the Negotiation and



Conflict Resolution course taught by Prof. George Siedel, University of Michigan, Business School, MI, USA, which was very helpful in providing examples of real negotiations, learning through role playing and I am sure that this course will be of great value in my future career. On the way back to Sofia I was able to interact informally with Prof. Siedel providing him with insights on Romania and learning a lot about USA.

Prof. Alexander Billon's course Global Business Strategy: Globalization, Multinational Corporations, and the Nation-State offered me the opportunity to learn more about the current global trends and I appreciated discussing the case of China.

One of the most interesting courses was, in my opinion Southeast Europe in the Context of the New Dynamics of the Euro-Atlantic Relations taught by Dr. Dinko Dinkov and Stoyan Stoyanov, University of National and World

Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria. Due to the courses I had to attend the first week, I could only participate to the second week of the course taught by Stoyan Stoyanov, the simulation of the Cyprus case. I loved the way all the participants got involved in this simulation, discussing and negotiating everywhere, during meals, over a cup of coffee or along a walk in the mountains, taking the matter seriously, maybe too seriously sometimes. Next year I hope that I will come back to FISU 2006 as I would like to attend Dr. Dinkov's course and learn from Stoyan's experience this year in Washington DC.

FISU 2005 was more than just an academic experience for me. Even though I ended up attending more than the three classes I have initially enrolled at, time flew so rapidly during all the interesting courses, still leaving me time to enjoy Pamporovo, a great mountain resort and all the hotel facilities offered by the organizers.

Speaking of organizers I would like to thank them all for the job they have done in organizing this outstanding event. Even though not everything went as planned, as we couldn't visit the caves due to the heavy flooding at the bottom of the mountain, the organizers managed to involve us in other activities and planned a trip to Smolen, to visit the local museum. I enjoyed most the two hikes to Snezhanka Telecommunication tower, one of

them with my dear friend Mimi and the other one with a large number of friends.

Even though FISU was located in a beautiful location, a great hotel: Murgavets and benefited from the presence of experienced scholars, it would not have been such an amazing experience without the participation of remarkable people of all ages and backgrounds. I made so many close friends which I started missing from the moment I left Pamporovo and I am sure I still will years after the event. Some of them promised to visit Romania (one of them already did), I hope all of them will and I will return to Bulgaria soon.

I was impressed by the Bulgarians' knowledge of Romania and glad I could explain a bit of the mystery of Count Dracula. Even though our countries are so close geographically and from a cultural point of view, to our surprise they are not close in inter-human relations but we hope we can change this in the future.

My comments could go on for many pages but I think that it would be better to EXPERIENCE than to read.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity and I hope to see you all next year because I would really love coming back!

**Annie Tubadji**  
*Social Policy Agency for Economic Analysis  
and Forecasting, Bulgaria*

**FISU 2005 – LEARNING THROUGH YOUR HEART**



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## Teodora Magdalincheva *Sofia University, Bulgaria*

### YOU JUST NEED TO EXPERIENCE IT

It is difficult for me to describe all my feelings, concerning FISI 2005. When I was applying for it my friends said to me: „You just need to experience it“. So I did...

FISI 2005 provided unique educational environment with people from different countries. The curriculum was designed to explore a wide range of political, economic and cultural issues. The program combined the remarkable academic courses with social and recreational opportunities. The lecturers distinguished themselves by their professionalism, erudition and dedication. Most of them provoked us into discussing the issues we were talking about, so that we could feel involved in the process of teaching and sharing knowledge, ideas and passion. The approach of the professors made us not only listen to them, but hear them and contemplate on the problems we were presented. Actually it was an



impressive mixture of teaching, talking, thinking and of course having fun. For instance, I have never thought that the legal principles of the European Union could be so

interesting. But with Prof. Jo- Carby Hall from the University of Hull and Dr. Dyane Ryland from the University of Lincoln, UK they really were. Their course was very interactive. We were not just delivered lectures – we could ask provocative questions, disagree with some statements, express our own points of view. The Negotiation and Conflict Resolution course with Prof. George Seidel from the University of Michigan, USA helped the students not only to improve their negotiating skills, but to realize the essence of common interest and the necessity of benefit for both sides. An overall picture of the current situation in Southeast Europe was drawn by Prof. Dinko Dinkov and Stoyan Stoyanov from the University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria.

All the lecturers were always willing to answer our questions even long after the end of the class. It helped us to remove the traditional barriers between professors and students. For two weeks we could attend different classes, listen to prominent speakers and participate in simulations that expanded further our practical skills.

However FISU 2005 was not just about spending time in the classroom. Off- classroom program was even more valued. All participants, professors and staff were given the opportunity for real cultural exchange. We could discuss the political and economic situation in our countries, play cards, dance, talk about our families or take a walk around the resort. And any of us searched for

and appreciated his interaction with the others.

We all had different fields of interests. However we all tried to learn more about the ideas and the experience of the other people. The FISU participants were eager not only to enhance their intellectual vitality and professional development, but to make a lot of friends. Now we see a lot of each other, write e-mails, speak on the phone. That's what really matters.

Of course the resort where the summer adventure took place tended to the success of FISU 2005. The remoteness, quietness and grandeur of the Rhodope Mountain helped to create the unique atmosphere. During our stay in Pamporovo a state of emergency was declared in Smolian municipality because of the heavy floods. We remained completely cut off and the railway and car traffic was blocked for 2 days. However the extreme situation did not darken the experience and even made us more united. Due to the efforts and the adequate measures, taken by the FISU staff, people leaving earlier were successfully transported to Sofia so that they could not miss their planes and be at work on time.

The richness of a broad range of academic and professional backgrounds, the stimulation created by intellectually engaged students working together, the depth and diversity of the FISU faculty and staff, and the magnificence of Rhodope Mountain made FISU 2005 a really memorable experience.

## БЪЛГАРО-АМЕРИКАНСКА КОМИСИЯ ЗА ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЕН ОБМЕН

### УЧЕБНИЯТ ЦЕНТЪР КЪМ КОМИСИЯ "ФУЛБРАЙТ" ПРЕДЛАГА:

- Английски език всички нива по системата "New Headway"
- Курсове за подготовка за TOEFL iBT, NEW SAT, GRE, GMAT
- Подготовка по английски език за кандидат-студенти в УНСС
- Курсове по бизнес английски и бизнес кореспонденция
- Разговорен курс за програмата WORK & TRAVEL
- Компютърна самоподготовка за TOEFL, SAT, GRE, GMAT, LSAT

### БЕЗПЛАТНИ УСЛУГИ ЗА КУРСИСТИ:

- Регистрация за тестовете TOEFL, GRE, GMAT
- English speaking club with native speakers
- Безплатни 10 часа компютърна самоподготовка
- 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  
тел. 944 0441, E-mail: [studycenter@fulbright.bg](mailto:studycenter@fulbright.bg), [www.fulbright.bg](http://www.fulbright.bg)

## Fulbright Interview



*Heather Stepanek graduated from Boston College in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in political science. After studying Spanish for several years, and spending a semester at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, Heather became interested in Eastern European languages and enrolled in Bulgarian and Russian language courses. Her Fulbright project involves studying public opinion in Bulgaria on the possible relocation of American military bases to the country. Just before leaving Bulgaria, Fulbright educational adviser Snejana Teneva took the following interview from her.*

**Snejana Teneva:** Heather, how does your Fulbright experience relate to your future plans?

**Heather Stepanek:** I have always been interested in politics and how public sentiment affects the way in which states or other political entities wield power. Fulbright has given me the opportunity to perform an interesting case study of how general opinions in

Bulgaria compare to national policy. This experience undoubtedly has given me a strong knowledge base from which to draw for future research projects.

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

**H.S.** As a Fulbright scholar and foreign traveler one of my main priorities is to experience my host country's culture. I've been learning Bulgarian language and make contact with Bulgarians as much as possible. It would be a mistake to treat time abroad as simply a step towards a professional or academic goal. I'm glad that one of the Fulbright's mission is to exchange ideas and learn from the people we meet abroad, and I try to live by the spirit of that mission.

**S.T.** What is the aim of your project?

**H.S.** The aim of my project is to gain a better understanding of Bulgarians' opinions about the possibility of hosting American military bases. The local sentiment in areas that have been discussed as potential locations for the bases are of particular interest. Bezmer airfield outside of Yambol, and Novo Selo firing ground outside Sliven among others are under consideration for hosting the Americans, and Sarafovo airport near Burgas has already held a small contingent of American forces during this most recent Iraq war. Visiting and studying these areas has given real insight to the possible benefits and problems of living near a military base.

**S.T.** Which Bulgarian newspapers are you investigating?

**H.S.** I'm looking at local papers that focus on citywide news and are primarily read by those around the towns in which they are published. During my recent trip to Sliven, the staff at Slivenski Novini, Sliven Dnes i Utre,

and Sedmitza, were helpful in giving me a feel for the local attitudes and politics. The Sliven deputy mayor's office and the mayor of Mokren (the town where Novo Selo is located) were also very willing in lending their support for my research.

**S.T.** What opinions are circulating in Bulgaria in face of the relocation of American military bases into the country?

**H.S.** Many Bulgarians in the towns where these bases might be set up are not entirely against the idea. Most agree that it will be a something of a boon for local business. In places like Sliven, because of previous training exercises with French and American troops at Novo Selo in the past couple of years, people are more or less used to seeing foreigners around. However, those living in closer proximity to the sights have additional concerns they would like to express if and when the bases will be built. For example there is apprehension in Mokren that machine equipment will pollute nearby soil and water where livestock graze, and that sub-contractors building the infrastructure for the base will unfairly neglect to hire a substantial amount of residents from the town. In Sarafovo many feel that the American presence there may have depressed tourism, once a vibrant industry during Communist times.

**S.T.** What factors do individuals focus on when thinking about Bulgaria's future?

**H.S.** Overall, I wouldn't say that many Bulgarian's are optimistic about their country's future, although perhaps more young professionals and students are considering staying in Bulgaria instead of seek

employment abroad than a few years ago. Many think that Bulgaria is headed in the right direction, but that a visible rise in living standard is slow coming, and that years will pass before there will be significant prosperity.

**S.T.** Does the relocation of US troops in Bulgaria bring optimism or pessimism about economic development?

**H.S.** There is optimism that the bases will usher in new economic activity, but some feel that unless they are builders who could be hired to construct the bases, or owners of restaurants and bars where soldiers will visit, they don't see how this new arrangement will personally benefit them. I think it's also important to note that it is still not clear how many American soldiers will be stationed in Bulgaria. One thing for certain is that these bases will be much smaller than the older, established bases in Germany, or Japan, for example. Bases in the Balkans will likely hold smaller number of troops who will be stationed for shorter rotations without bringing along their families. Thus there will not be as many additional consumers as there are around larger American bases in other countries.

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

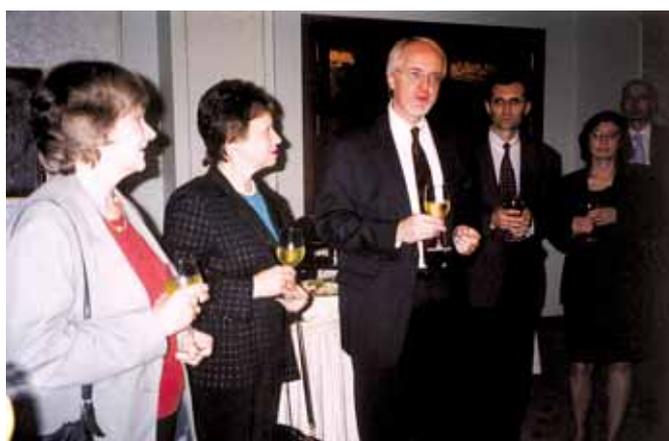
**H.S.** Fulbright has made me a more well rounded person. I had never spent a very extensive time abroad, and this year I've learned a lot about adapting to a different society and appreciating its customs and hospitality. I feel really lucky to have met so many personable and helpful Bulgarians who have made my time here a pleasure. I'll always feel a connection with this country, and will continue to visit, long after the Fulbright grant is over.



Fulbright Office News



Official Opening of the Orientation Program  
(From left to right: Fulbright Commission ED Dr. Julia Stefanova, PAO David Siefkin and U.S. Consul Daniel Perrone)



U.S. Ambassador John Beyrle (middle) welcomes the American Fulbright Grantees at a reception at Crystal Palace Hotel

CULTURAL ORIENTATION FOR AMERICAN FULBRIGHT GRANTEES

The cultural orientation for the AY 2005-06 American Fulbright grantees was held at the Fulbright Commission office on September 28-30, 2005. It was officially opened by David Siefkin, Public Affairs Officer, and Daniel Perrone, Consul at the U.S. Embassy in Bulgaria.

The orientation was a three-day program including lectures, discussions, a visit to the National History Museum and a one-day trip to the historic Rila Monastery. His Excellency John Beyrle, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Bulgaria, and his spouse Joselyn Greene attended the welcome reception for the new U.S. grantees, their contact persons and Bulgarian Fulbright alumni.



Trip to Rila Monastery

## 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 programs	– 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. J-1 visa. U.S. green card holders 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 or from the INTERNET site: <http://www.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

**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. „Панаѝот Волов“ № 1, ет. 2, ан. 6,  
София 1504, тел. 944 0441

Подготовка за: TOEFL, SAT, GRE, GMAT; английски език – всички нива

### ПРОГРАМА ЗА ОБМЕН НА УЧИТЕЛИ ПРЕЗ УЧЕБНАТА 2006-2007 ГОДИНА

Българо-американската комисия за образователен обмен „Фулбрайт“ обявява конкурс за едногодишен обмен на учители от езикови гимназии, преподаващи следните дисциплини на английски език: английски език и литература, история/обществознание, биология, химия и физика.

#### Условия на конкурса:

- българско гражданство на кандидатите
- отлично владение на английски език
- минимум три години преподавателски стаж по съответната дисциплина
- разрешение за неплатен отпуск от работодателя
- приемане на американския учител в същото училище по време на пребиваването на българския кандидат в САЩ срещу заплащане по български стандарти

### ПРОГРАМА ЗА ОБМЕН НА ДИРЕКТОРИ/ЗАМ. ДИРЕКТОРИ НА ГИМНАЗИИ ПРЕЗ УЧЕБНАТА 2006-07 ГОДИНА

Българо-американската комисия за образователен обмен „Фулбрайт“ обявява конкурс за шестседмичен обмен на директори/зам. директори на гимназии от България и САЩ през учебната 2006-07 г.

#### Условия на конкурса:

- кандидатите да са директори/зам.директори на езикови гимназии по време на кандидатстването
- да имат минимум една година стаж като директори/зам. директори
- отлично да владеят английски език
- българско гражданство на кандидатите
- да са на възраст до 50 години

#### Справки и формуляри:

Българо-американска комисия за образователен обмен „ФУЛБРАЙТ“

Централен офис: София, бул. Ал. Стамболийски № 17, ет. 2, стаи 9 и 15

тел: (02) 980 8212 и (02) 981 6830

<http://www.fulbright.bg>

Приемно време: 14 – 16 ч. всеки работен ден.

Документите за конкурса трябва да бъдат изпратени по пощата с пощенско клеймо не по-късно от 10 януари 2006 г. на адрес:

Българо-американска комисия за образователен обмен, София 1000,

П. К. 288

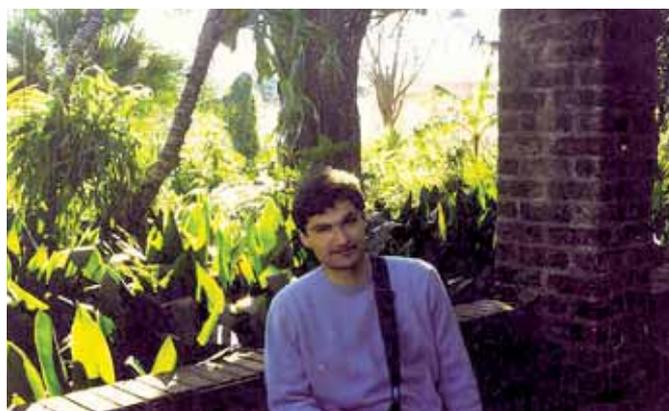
Всички документи трябва да бъдат в 3 екземпляра, попълнени/преведени на английски език.

## To Chicago and Back

### NEW ORLEANS – A SIN, FUN OR HOLY CITY

By Evgeni Georgiev

*Evgeni Georgiev completed an LLM program at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, as a Ron Brown fellow. Currently he works as a judge at Sofia Trial Court.*



New Orleans is commonly known as one of the world's most diverse and interesting cities. I had the same impression before I went there to study at Tulane University. But a second thought came to my mind on board my flight from Cincinnati to New Orleans, where I struck a conversation with the passenger sitting next to me. A devoted catholic, he was going to New Orleans for a religious conference. After founding out where I was going, he stunned me with the question of whether I knew that New Orleans is the United States' sin city. I did not and had never even thought about this, but my first experience in New Orleans made me think that he might have been right.

I arrived at Louis Armstrong airport about midnight, 28th of July 2002. After I made my first step out of the premises I felt sorry that I ever took it. It was so hot and humid that I could hardly breathe. Images from Dante's hell came over me, scaring me that I would not survive in such climate. Moreover, I started to think that people there must have done something really bad to be punished with this awful weather. Fortunately, a Serbian friend and my future Bosnian roommate were waiting for me and took me to the air-conditioned dormitory. There I relaxed for the night

and almost forgot my previous thoughts but the fear about the coming day did not leave me.

In the beginning the morning seemed to be worse than the previous night. My clothes were wet, the windows everywhere were wet, and added to the unbearable heat there was some strange irritating smell in the air. I could not tell where it was coming from. No wonder that I began to dwell upon what I was doing at that place, alone, knowing nobody, thousand miles away from home, and hardly breathing while being outside. Once, I got out of the dormitory, took a walk in Tulane campus, crossed Ferret, saw the Tulane President's house and walking on St.Charles headed to Napoleon, however, I found out a different world, a world that I knew from Mark Twain's and Margaret Mitchell's books.

With Tulane and Loyola Universities main buildings on my left side and Audubon Park on my right side, I felt like I was going back to the great mid-nineteenth-century period of New Orleans, when it was the United States' third largest city and the thriving pearl of the South. Suddenly, I forgot about the burning sun and the heavy air. Moreover, I was not walking anymore but I was

almost running, zealous to see more and more as if I was turning another and another page from a book I had already read. Then came the Synagogue with the Jewish Community Center, Tara's replica, the huge nineteenth-century Garden District mansions, and the charming streetcar with its black driver. Finally, I went back to my room full with impressions and enthusiasm, which marked my whole stay in New Orleans.

Twenty days later, some of my classmates and I went downtown, after passing our first exam, "Introduction to U.S. legal system." Our first stop was Caf  La Monde. This charming French style coffeehouse made me sense the French influence I had heard so much about before I went to New Orleans. The nearby Jean of Arc monument and the flowing Mississippi across the street added to the European atmosphere of this small tourist spot. Everything was so peaceful and quiet as if it was our gift for the well-done job at school.

A couple of hours later, when the darkness came and the well lit Hilton, Marriott and Intercontinental raised their sparkling bodies into the sky we decided to go on our „expedition.“ Therefore, we left the coffeehouse, turned left on Canal, and several blocks further down took left on Bourbon Street, the heart of the French quarter. I am sure you have heard about it. There are very few cities in the world that people can identify by a single street. Paris is one of them with its Champs d'Elysee, New Orleans is another with its Bourbon Street.

The first 50 feet on Bourbon, as my first steps out of the airport, were not very encouraging. We faced a vomit odor mixed with the smell of stale beer and sweat. Nevertheless, our curiosity made us to go further. Now I thank God that we did it because once we heard familiar Jazz, Cajun, and Zydeco music, we forgot about the bad smell. Areta Franklin's voice was coming from a restaurant on the left whereas the rhythm of Fats Domino's "My toot toot" was echoing from a bar on the right, making people laugh and shake their bodies. Everybody looked happy and free. There were no hypocritical smiles and polite gestures. People seemed open, frank, and genuine.

Further down the street we saw something unusual even for me, who had been used to the nudity on our beaches. On a Spanish stile terrace a "gang" of young man was

yelling at a lady on the street below as if they were encouraging her to do something. There were also people on the street gathered around the lady in a semicircle, who were urging her on the same. Out of curiosity we got closer and we saw a beautiful young girl with a cheerful smile on her face. She was raising her hands to the men on the terrace asking them for guess what - beads. The guys upstairs, however, were shaking the trimmings in their hands, asking her for something in return.

After few minutes of not very hard bargaining and under the applause of the public the girl gave up. She took off her shirt and showed to the men gazing at her a model-like body. Then I recalled again what the Ohio guy told me on the plane. I was sure that his tricky smile had meant this. Was he right however? What we saw was really unusual but not unnatural at all. We kept on smiling, clapping our hands enthusiastically in admiration of beauty and courage. Nobody felt sinful but free.

Ten months later my neighbor, a practicing catholic like the guy from the airplane, turned another page for me from the book I was reading – "New Orleans". One Sunday morning she brought me to the first-in-my-life Latin Mass in St. Patrick's church on Camp Street. There, among these completely unknown but extremely friendly people, I found out that there was more to New Orleans than heat, humidity, St. Charles and Bourbon Street. At that church only few blocks away from the French quarter I met people who had devoted their lives mainly to one thing – faith. Not only to the faith in God but also to the faith that there is good and bad in the world and the good should prevail. For these people New Orleans was the United States' holy city.

What is New Orleans at the end of the day? Is it a sin, fun, or holy city? On the one hand it was definitely a sin city for the Ohio guy but on the other hand it was a holy city for my neighbor. No argument it is a fun city for the millions of tourist who are going to New Orleans to visit the French quarter, get on the St. Charles' streetcar, or have a swamp tour. In my memories, however, New Orleans is my second hometown, not only the place where I saw, experienced, and learned a lot but also the place where I made wonderful friendships.



## Out of America

### THE ALPHABET SHEET AND "GOOD MORNING"

By John Deely

*Dr. John Deely is a professor of semiotics at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX. In January-June 2005 he was a visiting Fulbright professor at the Center for Semiotic Studies of New Bulgarian University in Sofia. Dr. Deely was awarded the title of Honorable Professor of NBU in June 2005.*

Bulgaria was far from my first visit as a professor in a to-me-foreign country. My main concern was the arrangement of housing, for the falling US dollar has seriously compromised the value of the Fulbright housing allowance. Once generous, that allowance is no longer even sufficient. It took the skill of an acrobat and the determination of a Mexican callejero to find an accommo-da-tion that fell within the allocated amount. Once that obstacle had been surmounted, I found an even greater one to which I had not given any consideration at all: reading street signs.

Now this is quite a different matter than knowing the language, and finding a solution to this rather serious problem well taught me the difference. For I have often lived in lands where I did not know the local language, but had always been able to make my way about with very little difficulty by the simple device of reading street signs, plus carefully listening to and then repeating sounds as I heard them. In Brazil and Mexico, even in Finland, I was able effectively to communicate within weeks of arrival.



But Bulgaria was my first extended visit in a land where I could not read the words of the language, let alone speak them. Hence even street signs were closed to me, and, at least among those whom I asked (which were not few), the idea of directions as being of the North-South, East-West variety seemed to be an uninteresting novelty. I was in the position of neither knowing where I was nor even in what direction I was to head. It was not a comfortable situation.

Still not conceiving the real nature of my problem,

I early on made a concerted effort to get my hands on a local map printed in the Roman alphabet — a misguided effort, it proved, if ever there was one. Not only did it take a lot of hunting to find such a map, but once I had found it, the map proved useless. Yes, I had a map I could read. But how was I to correlate it with street signs? And what good is a readable map if what you read remains uncorrelatable with the territory mapped? You would think that an experienced traveler would have taken this slight consideration into account before expending time and money in acquiring a useless map!

Now I had made sure to find a living space in the area of the university where I had my local responsi-bil-ities, so that I could walk to and from work. The walk was along a fairly busy road which was also suited less than ideally to pedestrian travel. In some stretches of the road only one side was safe to walk on, then for other stretches it was necessary to cross to the other side to walk safely. But along one stretch there were high-rises with stores and markets on either side, so that area was festooned with signs, which gave me an idea.

I asked a colleague native to Bulgaria to draw me up what he called an "alphabeth sheet", which simply had a crude and simple version of the Cyrillic alphabet on one line with the Roman equivalent characters on a line below, thus:

А	Б	Ц	Д	Е	Ф	Г	Х	И	Ж	К	Л	М	Н	О	П	Р	С	Т	У	В	З				
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Й	Ч	Ш	Щ	Ъ	Ю	Я																			
I	CH	SH	SHT	U	IU	IA																			

CUT – КЪТ

Hook – хук

Now this simple device proved to be my key to Bulgaria. I printed out several copies, placed every-where I spent time. And each morning as I walked to the university I walked alphabeth sheet in hand, compar-ing the letters to those on the

many signs I passed. Then, "slow by slow" (an expression I had learned while lecturing in Finland some years ago), words began to form in my mind.

The decisive moment came in a snowstorm. I was on the city outskirts, waiting for a number thirty mini-bus ("mashrutka"?) to get to Dondukoff. After a long wait, along came the number 30, but it was so full the driver declined to stop. An elderly woman also waiting was furious when the driver passed by, but, needless to say, her wrath made no difference, and we continued stuck where we were under the fresh-falling snow. Shortly, however, along came a mini-bus which was not the right number, but which was stopping to pick up someone who had signaled. As the bus slowed to a stop, through the snow, in Cyrillic characters, sprang to my eyes the word "Dondukoff". So I leapt aboard and successfully completed my journey.

Now I bought my second map of Sofia, this time with Cyrillic characters that correlated with the signs on streets along the way. Now, although I still don't know North from South in that city as the streets run, I have no problems at all finding my way. As for my original map of the city in Roman characters, it is for sale cheap to any newcomer who feels in need of a map using the alphabet familiar to Americans.

It was a most interesting practical lesson in the

importance of the alphabet, enough to convince me that ability to read the alphabet is among the most important requirements for a visitor who plans to spend any extended time in a foreign land. I will bear this lesson well in mind should I

have in future occasion to stay in China, Japan, or an Arab land. My advice to Fulbright visitors to Bulgaria: learn the alphabet if you want to find your way with the help of a map in any Bulgarian city.

Mastery of the alphabet made possible a second feat: use of a Bulgarian dictionary. I recommend to the newcomer the Pons dictionary as among the best for an extended visit, and, as is always the case with dictionaries, the larger the version the better.

Now the family from whom I rented a room was a Bulgarian family, the matriarch of which had studied some English back in school, and she still had her dictionary (better than most newer ones, in fact). So we managed many a make-shift conversation over breakfast or lunch. One of my first days in the household I looked up the word for "good" and the word for "morning", so I could brightly and cheerily say "Good morning!" I entered the kitchen and announced "Dobra sutrin!", to which the two people in the room answered at once "Dobro outro", which, of course, as an experienced traveler, I could tell at once was

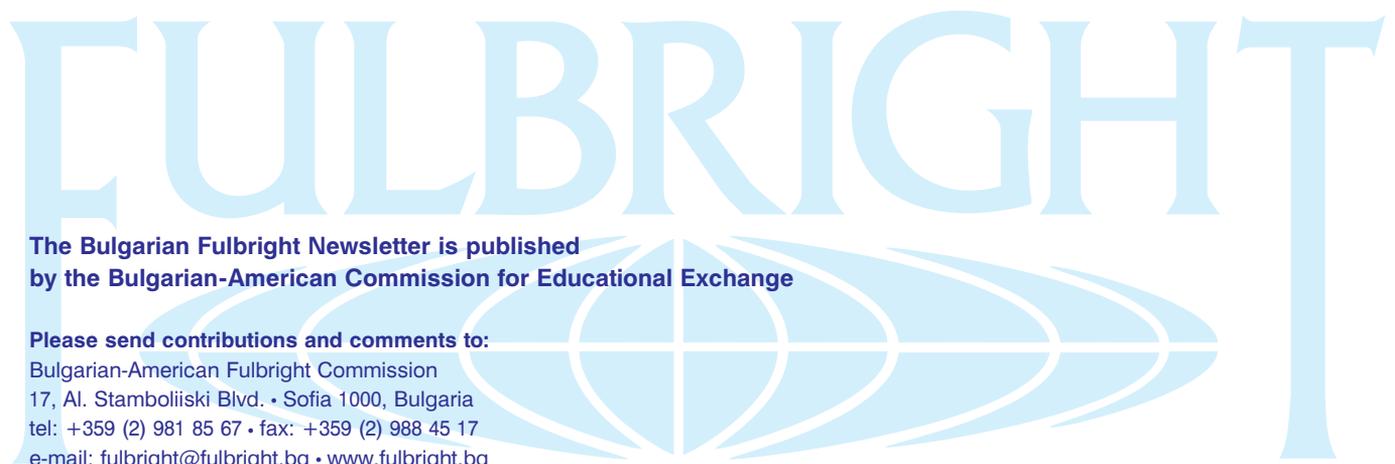
the customary response to dobra sutrin. Ha, ha.

After a few days I learned that they were not answering me, but correcting me. For reasons no one could explain, no one uses the expression "Dobra sutrin", even though it does indeed mean "good morning". I say "for reasons no one could explain", because I asked at least thirty different people and got as many different answers. Of course, the basic answer is simply that "dobra sutrin" is not the way one says "good morning" in Bulgarian. But since it does mean "good morning" in Bulgarian, I would always press the point "Why not?"

I could write an essay on the reasons assigned "why not", as well as on the facial expressions that accompanied hearing the question pressed, but will relate here only the best of the lot of the answers received. "The reason you cannot say 'dobra sutrin' for 'good morning'," a gentleman explained to me patiently, "is because it means the same thing as 'dobro outro'." "Oh", I said; but inside I was not convinced. And now and then a colleague does say to me, at the university or even at home, "Dobra sutrin."



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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](mailto:fulbright@fulbright.bg) • [www.fulbright.bg](http://www.fulbright.bg)