Sofia Metro Line to the Airport

The Sofia-Vrazhdebna Airport’s new terminal building was opened in 2007 and provided a breath of fresh air to the domestic and international traveler passing through it. The old terminal was a bus station by comparison. Actually worse, as the Sofia Avtogara is as modern a bus transport hub as there exists anywhere. And now the Sofia Metro system has been expanded to the airport offering direct service in and out of the center city. Every Sofia taxi cab driver, the good, the bad, the crooked, the honest, the reckless, the reckless, and the reckless will take a major hit. Long live mass transit!
http://www.novinite.com/articles/165111/Sofia+Metro+To+Reach+Airport+In+April+2015

U.S. Army to Deploy Tanks to Bulgaria?

Say it isn't so! Say we're not going back into a zero-sum Cold War game with the Russians that cost the U.S. dearly in national treasure between the end of WWII and the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. But the Russians it seems rebel at the idea of nations in its former empire making overtures to European Union integration. The Ukrainian people very fatefuly did just that in February of this year which began a cycle of events that led to the annexation of the Crimea region of the Ukraine by the Russians in the Spring of this year
and the continued hostilities in eastern Ukraine between the Ukrainian government and separatists supported by the Russian government. Sanctions by the world community against the Russian government for its actions in Ukraine have some predicting a deep recession for the Russian economy in 2015. NATO has its guns trained on Russian targets. Russia is the source of 60 percent of natural gas used in Europe and is ready to punish Europe for its sanctions against it. No Archduke Franz Ferdinand’s needed here, thank you. 


Sofia declared “City of Film”

It seems as though both the United Nations and the European Union have concentrated municipal honors on various cities in Bulgaria this year. Earlier this year, as reported in these pages, Burgas, on the Black Sea, was selected European Capitol of Sport for 2015. Veliko Tarnovo is a candidate for European Cultural Capitol for 2019. And now Sofia has been designated by UNESCO as its City of Film for 2015. The world community is slowly acknowledging what we who know Bulgaria have known for years; that the country is rich with cultural traditions that span the ages; that its people are open and friendly and want to convey that warmth to those who visit; and that time spent here is time that will be well remembered.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/165123/Sofia+Declared+UNESCO+City+of+Film+-+Report

Woman finds Worms in Polish Cookies

So phyto-sanitary conditions aren’t the best in food arriving from Poland. The Poles are noted for a vincible cavalry, potatoes, and extraordinary turnips. At no time in its history have Polish bakers been noted for their adventures in patisserie. Stick to the cookies coming from the hearths of Vienna and Paris and worry not about finding half a worm in one of your
petit-fours.
http://www.novinite.com/articles/164932/Woman+Finds+Live+Worms+in+Cookie+Package

**Irina Bokova May be the Next UN Secretary General**

Why not give over the leadership of all world bodies to women?! Men have been at the helm of most for as long as there have been world bodies and their track record is not stellar. Women are arguably better suited to ironing out differences and learning how to get along which is what the world needs just now. Let’s start with Ms. Bokova as the successor to Ban Kee Moon at the U.N. Let’s put a Bulgarian woman in charge of promoting peaceful relations between all the world’s tribes, step back, and see how the boys behave.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/164898/Irina+Bokova+Is+Likely+Nominee+For+UN+Head+%E2%80%93+French+Media

**Archeological Excavations explore Bulgarian Heritage**

The history of Bulgaria is coded in the civilizations that have inhabited this land for millennia. The Thracians, Greeks, Romans, and Ottoman Turks all laid claim to some corner of what is now the Bulgarian state. And each has left an historical record etched in the stone, rocks, monuments, and relics that lie in every region of the country. In our program travels we visit the Roman amphitheater in Plovdiv, early Christian churches in Sofia, and monuments to the Bulgarian revolution against Ottoman rule in Shipka. History is alive in this corner of southeastern Europe.  

http://www.novinite.com/media/images/2014-10/photo_verybig_164454.jpg
**And of Course There are Carpets, Nice Carpets**

Chiprovsti carpets have been named to the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity items which now gives a cultural sachet to the Bulgarian hand-made rug industry. We’ve known about Turkish, Moroccan, Persian, and Indian carpets. Now make way for the magic carpets of Bulgaria.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/165034/UNESCO+Adds+Production+of+Chiprovtsi+Carpets+to+%E2%80%98Intangible+Heritage%E2%80%99+List

That’s it for this time. We hope you decide to do summer study abroad with us in Bulgaria in June 2015. We have spaces available. Compare our $2950 program fee which includes airfare with any other four week program to Europe and you’ll be astonished. How do we do it you wonder? Bulgaria hasn’t adopted the Euro as yet and we have strong connections in Bulgaria. The program application form is now included at the bottom of this newsletter. For more information please contact me at: philip.szmedra@gsu.edu; 229-931-2122 or any of the other faculty participants at the email addresses listed in the application below.

Until next time.
Dovizhdane,
Philip Szmedra
Summer Study Abroad in Bulgaria
Georgia Southwestern State University
The American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
June 2–28, 2015

Cost: $2950
Directions: Complete all lines, sign the form, and return it with a check for $100.00 payable to Georgia Southwestern State University to:

Dr. Philip Szmedra
Director of Study Abroad
School of Business Administration
214 BHP
Georgia Southwestern State University
800 GSW SU Drive.
Americus, GA 31709

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: ________________________________________________________________

____________________   ______________________   ______________________
Last Name   First Name   Middle Name

Local Address: _________________________________________________________

____________________   ______________________   _______   _______   _______
Street name/number   Apt. number   City   State   Zip

Permanent Address: _____________________________________________________

____________________   ______________________   _______   _______   _______
Street name/number   Apt. number   City   State   Zip

Phone (Land/Cell): _____________________________________________________

____________________   ______________________
Area code + current number

Email: _______________________________________________________________

Date of Birth (month-day-year): _________________________________________

Social Security Number: ________________________________________________

GSW Identification number: _____________________________________________

Academic Major/Minor: _________________________________________________

Circle one:   Male   Female

Medical Information: List any chronic conditions, allergies, or other special health concerns including psychological and emotional problems and include information on prescription medications that you currently take for those problems:

1. ___________________________________________________________________
2. ___________________________________________________________________
3. ___________________________________________________________________
4. ___________________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact:
Name/ Relationship: ____________________________________________________
Have you ever traveled outside of the U.S.?

If Yes, where?

B. PASSPORT INFORMATION

Country of Citizenship:

I have a current passport:

Number Place of Issue Date of Issue Expiration Date

I am applying for a passport: Yes No (circle one)

C. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

College/University Attending:

Classification (circle one): Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Grad Student

Major/Minor:

Current GPA:

Are you enrolled in a program leading to a degree or diploma? Yes No

Will you be applying for financial aid? Yes No

Do you have a HOPE grant to attend college in Georgia? Yes No

D. COURSE SELECTION AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

You may take a maximum of two courses for a total of up to six (6) semester hours. Please select a first and second choice of courses with the understanding that only those courses that enroll the most students will go. Circle your first and second choices:

**ARST 3102 (3cr) – Ethics in International Photography.** Ms. Tonia Hughes. tonia.hughes@gsw.edu.

**ARST 3170 (3cr) – Beginning Digital Media.** Ms. Tonia Hughes. tonia.hughes@gsw.edu.

**ECON 2106 (3cr) - Principles of Microeconomics.** Dr. Philip Szmedra. philip.szmedra@gsw.edu

**ENVS 1100 (3cr) - Introduction to Environmental Science.** Dr. Tzvetelin Iordanov. tzvetelin.iordanov@gsw.edu

**PHYS 1222 (3cr) - Stellar Astronomy.** Dr. Svilen Kostov. svilen.kostov@gsw.edu

Note: Transient students must apply to GSWSU and pay a $25 application fee. Out-of-state applicants will pay a $250.00 study abroad fee and in-state GA tuition.
AUTHORIZATION AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

Read and Sign the Following Statement
I acknowledge that participation in a study abroad program involves some risk of injury, illness, or loss of personal property. I agree to release and forever discharge Georgia Southwestern State University and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, its members individually, and its officers, agents, and employees, from any and all claims, demands, rights, and causes of action of whatever kind of nature, arising from and by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, including death, damages to property and the consequences thereof, resulting from my participation in the Maymester 2010 Study Abroad Bulgaria program and related activities.

I hereby agree to maintain accident and health insurance in force and effect for the duration of my participation in the Study Abroad Bulgaria program. I further acknowledge that the supervising faculty or program director has sole authority to make decisions regarding the continued participation of any individual in the program whose conduct may necessitate disciplinary action. I further authorize the supervising faculty or program director to obtain and provide medical treatment and/or services that I may require during the study abroad program.

Finally, I am aware that the deadline for submission of this application is February 24, 2012 and I agree to abide by the deadlines for fee payment as follows:

March 31, 2015: $100.00 non-refundable application fee due
April 14, 2015: First payment of $1425.00 due
April 28, 2015: Final payment of $1425.00 due

I further acknowledge and accept the schedule for refunds, should I withdraw from the program, and accept the penalties associated with late withdrawals, as follows:

Withdrawal before April 15, 2015: All but $500.00 will be refunded.
Withdrawal between before May 1, 2015: All but $750.00 will be refunded.
Withdrawal after May 15, 2015: No money will be refunded.

Note: All withdrawals must be made in writing to the Office of International Programs at Georgia Southwestern State University in order for refunds to be processed.

I understand that submitting an application for this study abroad program does not guarantee acceptance into the program; that candidates must meet program requirements and be approved by the program director; and that participation is subject to availability and is on a first come, first served basis.

Signature of Applicant__________________________________________________
Date________________________________________________________________

NOTE: APPLICATION FORM MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY $100.00 APPLICATION FEE