Gus Gus in Sofia

Of course you’ve heard of the latest Nordic rock sensation Gus Gus. Poignant, mesmerizing rock music is necessarily the product of darkness, icy temperatures, the Aurora Borealis, mandelbrot, and pickled herring, not necessarily in that order. Abba did it. Billy Joel did it. And now we have Gus Gus. [http://www.novinite.com/articles/165292/Gus+Gus+In+Sofia](http://www.novinite.com/articles/165292/Gus+Gus+In+Sofia)

Institut Francais Opens Sofia Film Theater

The French understand the compelling nature of their language and culture to peoples in every corner of the world. There are French Alliances and Instituts (no “e”) everywhere even in Bulgaria. Especially in Bulgaria where many French come to partake of Eastern European culture for a tiny fraction of the cost of a weekend sojourn in Paris, Lyon, or Nice. But the French give back. A new venue for French and international film has opened in Sofia. French film is arguably the most psycho-analytical as any that has ever been produced. Jean-Luc Godard, Francois Truffaut, Luc Besson, Louis Malle, and Claude Lelouch, to name a few, have spun intricate story lines to lay bare the tensions and truths in every romantic relation. We know the truth about romance because of French film. French romance in any case. Cigarettes are important.  [http://www.novinite.com/articles/165356/Institut+Francais+Opens+Cinema+Hall+In+Sofia](http://www.novinite.com/articles/165356/Institut+Francais+Opens+Cinema+Hall+In+Sofia)
International Book Fair in Sofia

Yo! You! Books still exist! And they remain important for millions of people. Kindle, schmindle. There is nothing like turning real pages of a real book; savoring an exquisite sentence crafted for a book that is three dimensional, typeset in Book Antigua, inked to perfection, and produced through a version of what Master Gutenberg originally crafted. Books Live! Books Forever!  
http://www.novinite.com/articles/165305/International+Book+Fair+Starts+In+Sofia+On+Tuesday

Boyz II Men in Sofia

I guess you know these guys. I don’t but anything much beyond the Eagles is a bit too contemporary for me. The point is that Sofia now is a prime stopover for western pop groups as they tour European capitals. Young Bulgarians are very knowledgeable pop music consumers and are especially hungry for western groups in concert. So we have Boyz II Men playing the capital. http://www.novinite.com/articles/165290/Boyz+II+Men+In+Sofia

Bulgarian Health Indicators Not So Hot
Who would have thought that all those cigarettes and all that luscious organ meat could slow one down? It’s true that the Bulgarians are not the healthiest folks on the continent. But they’re better than the Romanians. At least they have that. And although they live on average about five years less than the average citizen of the European Union it’s quality not quantity that matters n’est pas? There are mountains, icy rivers, bucolic villages, vibrant nightlife, a thousand beauty pageants, and plenty of pork tenderloin. Quality not quantity. [http://www.novinite.com/articles/165225/Bulgarians+Have+Shorter+Life+Expectancy+Than+More+Europeans]

**Education Minister Thinks Textbooks are Too Hard**

Education Minister Todor Tanev thinks that the textbooks provided to Bulgarian school children are much too difficult. According to Minister Tanev a dumbing down is necessary to avoid what he terms a “powder keg” situation. Thousands of Sofian school kids have demonstrated in the streets of the capitol to make Papa Todor president of the European Union by acclamation. In joyous response the minister is considering proferring a bill in the Bulgarian parliament making Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays “Ice Cream and Cake Days” throughout Bulgarian schools. Romanian school children are reported to be considering a sit down strike in the streets of Bucharest until similar legislation is passed there. Powder keg indeed. [http://www.novinite.com/articles/164963/Education+Minister+Labels+Schoolbooks%27+Content+as+Powder+Keg]

**Bulgarian Computer Maker Pravetz to Offer Laptop**

Who knew? The brand had been around in the 1980s but never got a foothold in the wider world market. When communism expired at the beginning of the 1990s so did the Pravetz computer company. Now it’s back and offering a laptop with Taiwanese components but a
Bulgarian heart. If the price is right why wouldn’t one buy one of these instead of an Acer? Think of the cache of describing to friends that your computer has its roots behind the Iron Curtain. The Iron Curtain. You know. Churchill. The Cold War. The Berlin Wall. Google it. http://www.novinite.com/articles/165664/Bulgarian+PC+Brand+Pravetz+to+Start+Selling +Laptops+in+January

**New Car Sales Are Up in Bulgaria and Across the EU**

While Bulgaria is only a small part of the total European automobile market sales of new cars is up for all of 2014 compared with 2013. That’s good news for Bulgaria as new car sales are a bellwether for overall economic activity. Of course the real vitality in the Bulgarian car market is in used car sales, especially stolen automobiles brought from Germany. The outskirts of every large city in Bulgaria is chock-a-block with car lots crammed with late model Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Audi automobiles. They’re low mileage, lovely, and very affordable. Of course they’re all hot, but A/C is standard equipment. http://www.novinite.com/articles/164163/Bulgaria%27s+New+Car+Market+Registers+9+Increase+in+2014

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
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: _______________________________________________________

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Place of Issue</th>
<th>Date of Issue</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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@gsu.edu.

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

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

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

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