Ok. Perfect! What better way to promote a summer study abroad program to Bulgaria than to have the glitterati of Hollywood do it in a video promoting Bulgaria as a great place for moving making. The video was made to be shown during the Academy Award telecast in March, 2016 alongside a Bulgarian documentary film nominated for an Oscar in the category of best foreign language film. So, rather than taking my word for what a great place Bulgaria is; unending prose describing its beauty, its people, its gritty Communist heritage, its crossroads of civilizations bio, please allow Salma Hayek, Antonio Banderas, Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Adrien Brody, Arnold Swartzenagger, and Mel Gibson to do it for me. Oh, and great views of the capitol city of Sofia and the surrounding region. Just click on... oh wait. This is 2015 and you folks were born with mice in your hands. You’ll know what to do: [link](http://www.novinite.com/articles/171268/World+Film+Stars+Appear+in+New+Commercial+Promoting+Bulgaria#sthash.pZIG1y5r.dpuf).

Plovdiv’s week of art and culture

Plovdiv is Bulgaria’s second city with a vibrant art and music scene. Our GSW student groups have trodden these very cobblestones in the old city that dates back to Roman times. You know we will visit the Roman amphitheater that is just up this street and to the
left, still used by Plovdivians for theater and music events. We will immerse ourselves in the art, music, the culture, and the formidable gelato that this city has to offer. The running routes are numerous if steep and stony. You’ll be able to burn off that peppermint schnaps double scoop you indulged in the night before guaranteed.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/170925/Bulgaria%E2%80%99s+Plovdiv+Launches+Week+of+Art%2C+Cultural%20Events

**Egyptian vultures in Bulgaria**

![Egyptian Vulture](image)

Any doubt at all that dinosaurs still roam should be dispelled by looking deeply into the eye of this yellow faced lovely. We’ve missed international Vulture Awareness Day which happens, apparently, on the first Saturday in September but that should not dampen our enthusiasm for protecting these unique creatures which, according to the article “help us by clearing the nature from the corpses of dead animals”. I for one am very grateful to the Egyptian vulture for dealing effectively with the nature surrounding dead animals as otherwise nature would become cluttered with the victims of time and accidental misfortune. Hooray for the pretty yellow-faced vulture, and the buzzard, and the eagle, and all those cleaners of the veld and the roadways.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/170692/One+Third+of+Egyptian+Vultures+on+Balkans+Reside+in+Bulgaria#sthash.FOlVJv5Y.dpuf

**Koprivshtitsa festival of music and dance**

![Koprivshtitsa](image)

People love the summer, especially in countries where the winters may be harsh and light-deprived. Bulgaria’s winters are nothing to write home about so festival season, May
through September, is a joyous occasion. Traditional costumes and dancing, traditional food and drink, traditional traditions and traditional non-traditions. That’s what the celebration of traditions is all about, and none do it better than Bulgarians and there is no place better to celebrate than Koprivshtitsa, a village preserved to within an inch of its city life. Thank goodness for tourists hoping to regain some sense of cultural gravitas by watching dancers, slurping sno-cones, and resisting the urge to buy felt Mickey Mouse skullcaps – with the ears attached of course.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/170265/Folk+Fest+Drawing+Tens+of+Thousands+to+Bulgaria%27s+Koprivshtitsa+This+Weekend

**The American English Academy begins another year**

Most large international cities have at least one international school. Sofia has the AEA which has been educating a cosmopolitan mix of students for the past twenty four years. This K-12 school has most students enrolled in bi-lingual classes so that by the time they are ready to go on to college they are fluent in both Bulgarian and English; probably the best approach to prepare students for life and living in a globalized world. Given this type of educational opportunity few students fail. How could they?

http://www.novinite.com/articles/170848/American-English+Academy+Kicks+Off+School+Year+with+Fireworks

**A French festival**

The French are different from the rest of us. They believe their culture, their food, wine, automobiles, architecture, language, heritage, political philosophy, their existence over essence approach to living is superior to their fellow travelers. I don't know about the rest
of those quality of life signals but have you ridden in a Peugeot recently? Please! Give me a break! But the French are great promoters of things French which is what’s happening this weekend in Sofia at the park by the Eagle’s Bridge in center city. Come taste the freshest of baguettes, the sublimest Cote du Rhone, and the best that les chevres Francais have to offer. Oh wait! You’re here and not in Sofia to partake. Remedy that by coming with us to Bulgaria from June 2-30, 2016. It will change your life and who knows, you may actually take a liking to goat cheese with a French accent.

That’s it for this time. We hope you decide to do summer study abroad with us in Bulgaria in June 201. Compare our $2950 program fee 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 although it became a member of the European Union in 2007. And we have strong connections in Bulgaria. For more information and program application please go to the GSW homepage and then to Student Resources and then to Study abroad or contact me at: philip.szmedra@gsu.edu; 229-931-2122.

Until next time.
Dovizhdane,
Philip Szmedra