



## AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN SOFIA NEWSLETTER No. 7, JUNE 2010

The American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS, [www.einaudi.cornell.edu/arcs](http://www.einaudi.cornell.edu/arcs)), established in 2004, is dedicated to research in the humanities and social sciences and represents a consortium of educational institutions registered in North America. ARCS is a Member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and an Educational Member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria. Thanks to a generous donation by the Packard Humanities Institute, ARCS acquired in early 2008 its permanent home in Sofia, consisting of a four-level building on property of over 16,000 sq. ft.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Grants

We are pleased to announce that ARCS has been awarded two major grants: \$240,031 from the America for Bulgaria Foundation to be used for three joint Bulgarian-American archaeological projects and for site preservation projects at Deultum and Nicopolis ad Istrum; and \$200,000 from the Packard Humanities Institute, in part as matching funds to support of the salary of the Director of ARCS and expenses of the U.S. office over the next two years.

#### Appointments

The Board of Trustees unanimously elected C. Denver Graninger as Director of ARCS and Todor Petev as Director of our United States Office. Professor Graninger has a Ph.D. in Classics from Cornell University and has had an impressive teaching, research, and administrative career at the University of Tennessee and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He and his wife Tanya Spicer look forward to living in Sofia, exploring Bulgaria, and participating in the busy academic and social life of the Center.

Todor Petev will defend his doctoral dissertation in Art History at Princeton University this fall. As an experienced fund-raiser and administrator, with solid educational background in European history of Art, he is well connected and respected in academic circles both in Bulgaria and the United States.

#### Publications

The first scholarly publication of ARCS, *Communism vs. Democracy: Bulgaria 1944 to 1997*, by the acclaimed Bulgarian journalist and writer Nassya Kravevska-Owens, with introduction by Professor Mark Kramer, Director of the Project for Cold War Studies at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University is still hot off the press. This is a brilliant, eye-opening chronicle of Bulgaria's history during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. *Communism vs. Democracy* is the first in a series of planned monographs on Bulgarian history from prehistory through the modern age.

#### New Programs

Thanks to the support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF), the ABF Fellowship Program for Advanced Doctoral Students was established. During the first year of the program, 15 Bulgarian doctoral students were awarded grants to spend one month of research either at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens or at the American Research Institute in Turkey. They come from various institutions in Bulgaria: Galina Grozdanova from the Regional Museum of History in Kyustendil; Iliya Hadzhipetkov, Ivanka Slavova, Lily Grozdanova, Nayden Prahov, Paulina Andonova, Petya Andreeva, Silvia Ivanova, Vladislav Ivanov, and Slava Vasileva from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"; Juliet Guileva from the Veliko Tarnovo University "St. Cyril and St. Methodius"; Kamen Boyadziev, Nadezhda Ivanova, and Margarita Lyuncheva from the National Institute of Archaeology and Museum; Vassil Tenekedjiev from the Archaeological Museum in Varna.

Four Regular and Associate Members of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens were awarded ABF Short-Term Research Fellowships for conducting studies at ARCS: Carmen Rogobete from the Babeş-Bolyai University in Romania, Cameron Pearson from the City University of New York, John Tully from Princeton University, and Paul Kosmin from Harvard University.

### Book Donations

ARCS recently received two extremely generous book donations: from Professor Mark Stefanovich of the American University in Bulgaria and his wife Mrs. Maria Stefanovich, who donated ca. 3,000 books; and from the Leon Levy Foundation through the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, which donated over 1,000 books.

### Cultural Events

ARCS organized and hosted a student premiere of Vanya Zhekova's documentary *Catharsis*. The film exposes the crimes of the communist regime in Bulgaria between 1944 and 1989 from the perspective of several survivors of political violence. The powerful narrative mentions the communist concentration camps, the arbitrary arrests, torture and massacre of political opponents, but ends with a positive message for Bulgaria's future. The author herself is a victim of repression. The event was attended by students, other young people, contemporaries and survivors. The show was followed by thought-provoking, scholarly discussion about modern Bulgarian history and prospects for a full-fledged civil society in Bulgaria.

The official public premiere of *Catharsis*, organized by ARCS Assistant Librarian Hristo Alexiev with the generous help of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, took place in *Dom na Kinoto* (*The Cinema House*), one of the most prestigious venues for film presentations in Bulgaria. The event was attended by nearly 200 people including H.E. Mr. Marc Michielsen, Ambassador of Belgium, and his wife, Mrs. Marie Chantal Biéla-Michielsen, as well as representatives of the Russian, Romanian and other diplomatic missions, writers, journalists and other distinguished guests. The event commenced with an introduction by cinema critic Antoniya Kovacheva, followed by a brief musical prelude and the actual film, which was very well received by the public and provoked many questions that led to an interesting discussion. A small reception at the end provided refreshments and networking opportunities.

*Catharsis* was also shown at a number of other venues. At the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," the event was hosted and organized by Professor Kostadin Grozev, a leading expert on Cold War history, and was attended by Sofia University students, faculty members, and other guests, including Mr. Ken Moskowitz, Counselor for the Public Affairs of the U.S. Embassy. Students showed vivid interest in the topic, and a long and intense discussion followed. Later the film was

shown in the small town of Rudozem in the Rhodope Mountains. The author and ARCS officer Hristo Alexiev made interesting contacts with ordinary people who shared their own experience of political violence in Bulgaria after September 9, 1944. *Catharsis* was then shown in Madan, a mining and cultural center in the Rhodopes with a predominantly Pomak population. The show was followed by a heartfelt conversation with the audience. The next showing of *Catharsis* was in the small village of Levochevo near Smolyan in front of a large audience. The village is famous for its quaint architecture and warm hospitality.

### ANNUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Our Spring Program focused on religious beliefs and practices in Bulgaria and the region since prehistory through the modern epoch. We are very grateful to our contributing lecturers for their illuminating talks on the following topics:

- Dr. Maya Vassileva, Center for Thracian Studies: "Mainstream Religious Ideas in Thrace"
- Dr. Aneta Petrova, New Bulgarian University: "Hellenistic Grave Reliefs from Mesambria and Kallatis"
- Dr. Hristo Preshlenov, National Archaeological Institute with Museum: "Integrated Spaces: Romans and *Pax Romana* at the Southeastern Black Sea Coast, 1<sup>st</sup> century BC – 6<sup>th</sup> century AD"
- Dr. Vanya Lozanova, Center for Thracian Studies: "Constantinos Helios / Zeuxippos Helios: Old Religiosity and New Authority"
- Dr. Elissaveta Moussakova, National Library St. Cyril and St. Methodius: "Visualizing the Text in Bulgarian Mediaeval Manuscripts"
- Professor Liliana Simeonova, Institute of Balkan Studies: "Re-thinking the Classical Art of Constantinople. Some Examples from the 10th to 18th Centuries"
- Orlin Yordanov, National High School of Ancient Languages and Cultures: "The Palamite Doctrine of the Term "Energy" in the Context of Original Sin"
- Professor Serguey Ivanov, American University in Bulgaria: "Introduction to the Topology of the Orthodox Christian Temple"
- Professor Evelina Kelbetcheva, American University in Bulgaria: "The Treatment of Islamic Minorities in Bulgaria under Communism"
- Professor Rositza Gradeva, American University in Bulgaria: "Islam in the

- Balkans/Bulgaria: Past and Present, Politics and Culture”
- Dr. Ina Merdjanova, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”: “Religion and Peace-building in the Balkans”
  - Dr. Zdravko Dimitrov, National Archaeological Institute with Museum: “Examples of Corinthian Order: Development in Roman Thrace (1st – 3rd Centuries AD)”
  - Professor Alexei Kalyonski, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”: “Islamization in the Balkans and Bulgaria during the Ottoman Period”
  - Professor Ivailo Lozanov, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski: “Roman Cities in Thrace: Structural and Functional Spaces”
  - Professor Kyrill Pavlikianov, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”: “The Athonite Archives and Manuscripts and Their Significance for Understanding Minority Groups and Everyday Life in Byzantium”
  - Dr. Zvi Keren, Hebrew University: “The Bulgarian Jews: Where Do They Come From?”
  - Professor Ivan Gatsov, New Bulgarian University: “Lithic Assemblages from Eastern Thrace and South Marmara Region, 7th - 5th Millennia BC”

### **FIRST SPRING TRIP**

#### **Ten Days on the Trail: The Republic of Macedonia from Late Antiquity to Modernity** Jeremy Ott, ARCS Fellow 2009/2010

I don't know how the transportation company stayed in business. On the rainy afternoon when I boarded its bus at Sofia's Central Bus Station, the stained and faded seats were occupied by fewer than ten souls seeking solace in the long open spaces stretching down the interior. Unlike companies serving most Bulgarian domestic bus routes, this one lacked a station office; tickets could only be bought on board with cash. But I was not traveling within Bulgaria to Plovdiv or Varna, but rather southward along the country's west edge until we turned toward the sunset, crossed the border, and entered the land where I was to spend ten days: the Republic of Macedonia.

This nation, not to be confused with today's northern Greek province of the same name, is home to territory considered for more than 2,000 years to be part of the “Macedonian” region. On the other hand, the power center of the ancient Macedonian Kingdom, which gained its greatest breadth through the far-flung expeditions of Alexander the Great, was positioned first in Vergina and then Pella, both of which fall within

modern Greece. Today, Greece and Macedonia contentiously claim not only the name “Macedonia” but Alexander's mantle itself, an understandable but unfortunate exploitation of ancient history and archaeology for nationalistic ends. The ongoing dispute between these countries over the name rights, if not the cultural heritage, would seem likely to find resolution sooner rather than later, which will be a relief to the many international friends of both young countries who are concerned more with their long-term success than what they call themselves.

It was actually in southern Greece that my circuitous journey to Macedonia began five years before I boarded the Sofia-Strumica bus in early April 2010. As a graduate student in archaeology I came first to Athens to immerse myself in Greece's archaeological wealth through a yearlong program at the American School of Classical Studies. There, and subsequently at Corinth, I developed my dissertation topic on Corinth's burial practices during Late Antiquity (this is the most appropriate term for the period of the fourth to seventh centuries AD, although it is sometimes referred to as “Early Christian” “Late Roman”, “Early Byzantine”, or “Early Mediaeval”).

Due to a lack of full publication for most of Greece's numerous Late Antique cemeteries, in order to compare Corinthian graves to contemporary ones elsewhere, I was confronted with the necessity to reach beyond Greece's modern north border, which falls more than 250 km short of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD northern limit of the Byzantine Empire at the Danube River. Within the Empire's broad Balkan holdings, including much of modern Serbia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, and Greece, a common culture developed in Late Antiquity on the foundations of the Greco-Roman civilization that preceded it. Unfortunately, due to both academic stagnation under communism in most of the Balkans and a bias in western scholarship that has established the traditional boundaries for the study of ancient “Greek” archaeology at Greece's modern borders (and with a primary focus on Athens), the cultural heritage of Balkan nations is little known outside each country. I was thus compelled to travel northward to Bulgaria in 2009-2010, where the new American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS) offers an academic program introducing students to the archaeology and modern history of Bulgaria, as well as a launching pad for dissertation-related research projects.

One door that ARCS opened was the opportunity to take a ten-day research trip to Macedonia. My academic objectives for this mission were to gain

a better understanding of burials and general material culture from Late Antique Macedonia through visits to archaeological sites and museums as well as to locate relevant publications, some of which can be extremely difficult to find outside the country. There were, of course, other aspects of Macedonia that tempted me. Having observed modern culture for nine months in Bulgaria, I was curious to visit a neighboring country that had also experienced communism to offer a point of comparison for that political system and its consequences (both social and academic) in Bulgaria. Moreover, during the present window in time Macedonia offers a tantalizing glimpse of Balkan culture before accession to the European Union and all of the developmental benefits, tendencies toward cultural homogenization, and skyrocketing prices that for better or worse accompany membership in that club. Finally, colleagues' firsthand tales of Macedonia's natural and architectural beauty, particularly Lake Ohrid, conquered any last doubts and pulled me into the Balkan wild west.

Following a lengthy stop at the border (the Bulgarians were not eager that I should leave their country, while the Macedonians took a single glance at my passport and whisked me in) we drove for a half hour past gently rolling hills, painted in shadowy greens and purples by the fleeting light, that bore a strong resemblance to their cousins lining the Bulgarian continuation of the same river valley. "He is American," proclaimed my bus driver to the men standing by their taxis at my destination of Strumica, southeast Macedonia, as I gathered my luggage. Fortunately, I had already made arrangements with friends of friends for car transport during the duration of my sojourn, and so I made a phone call, was picked up by Slave in his glowingly polished black sedan, and soon found myself in my hotel for my first night in Macedonia.

Like most of the places where I would stay, the room was small, sufficient, and not entirely comfortable. This relatively low standard of accommodation inherited from the communist period represents one of the major challenges to Macedonia's international tourism industry, an area that lies waiting to be fully tapped. Over the last year Macedonia has smartly blanketed international news channels with well-produced tourism advertisements (in addition to the "Invest in Macedonia" business advertisement campaign). Particularly through cultural-historical and natural tourism, Macedonia stands to raise its tourism income from the current 6% of GDP to a level closer to Greece's 16%. While ancient archaeological sites, Mediaeval churches, mountains, rivers, and caves are in abundance, however, the tourism industry itself is

underdeveloped and unprepared for large groups. Only Ohrid, without question the premier tourist destination in Macedonia (and the only one to receive its very own televised travel advertisement), would seem to be on a fast track to capitalize on its potential.

My itinerary, bringing me to Ohrid and many other places large and small, was constructed around a single aim: to see as many archaeological sites and museums as possible, especially those of relevance to the Late Antique period, within my ten day visit. Starting in Strumica, I explored southeast Macedonia through stops at Stip, Bargala, Stobi, Negotino, Treskovec, and Prilep. Then I headed to the country's southwest corner, visiting Ohrid, Bitola, and Heraclea Lyncestis. Finally, I was driven by my friend Petar north to Skopje and the country's northeast including Veles and Vinica.

"You don't want to go there! The people are unfriendly and greedy." Such was the advice I received when traveling from one town (and especially one region) to another and a reflection of Macedonia's full absorption of the old Balkan system of both international and town-to-town mutual distrust. I was pleased to discover that the reality, however, is quite different: Most Macedonians are actually friendly and generous. In the small town of Negotino, for example, the purchase of a single banana from a greengrocer resulted in an extended conversation about my visit and an introduction to the shop-owner's family. Moreover, Macedonians are especially proud of their archaeological heritage and were eager to share it with me. Despite my stating that I am primarily a student of Late Antiquity, at nearly every museum and many sites the staff insisted on providing a complimentary guided tour of the entire collection from Prehistory onward. Moreover, in Strumica and Vinica, museum personnel went to the trouble to tour me around nearby archaeological sites and, at the University of Skopje, a professor of archaeology kindly shared several hours of his time discussing the Late Antique Period in Macedonia. Most generously, at several museums the staff offered not only brief pamphlets to me but also full academic volumes without charge.

An infelicitous aspect of Macedonian museums and archaeological sites, on the other hand, relates to photographic policy. In a number of places all photography, even of objects excavated decades ago, is officially forbidden, a rule that certainly does not encourage visits by the general public whether from Macedonia or abroad. A similar situation exists in many museums throughout the Balkans including the splendid new Acropolis Museum in Athens; in all

cases it would be advisable to allow complete photography of publicly viewable collections with the possible exception of only the most recently excavated objects. Fortunately, in Macedonia the museum staff were usually considerate of my scholarly interest and gave me permission to take photographs liberally or applied additional instructions reflecting the present day conflict between common sense and the communist tradition of top-down control: "You may take photographs, but not too many;" "You should only photograph what is really important for your studies;" "You are not supposed to take pictures, but you can do it discreetly."

While the broad chronological range of Macedonian museum collections typically spans Prehistory through the Medieval world, Late Antiquity is arguably the best overall represented period at museums as well as archaeological sites. Such is to be expected because many ancient communities, already fully urbanized during the Roman period with all of the amenities of city life including public baths and theatres, survived and sometimes thrived during the fifth and sixth centuries despite attacks by Huns and Goths. Additionally, the hundreds of fortresses in Macedonia and other Balkan countries that were built or renovated by Justinian in the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century against the threat of Avar and Slavic invasion provide a tremendous amount of information on both military construction techniques and aspects of everyday life.

As elsewhere in the area of the Romanized Mediterranean, Christianity stood at the center of building activity: More than 200 Late Antique churches, some of them situated within extensive ecclesiastical complexes, have been discovered. From these structures come some of the most sumptuous Late Antique floor mosaics in the Balkans, particularly those of the Great Basilica at Heraclea Lyncestis, the episcopal basilica at Stobi and its baptistry, and the baptistry at Ohrid's Plaosnik Basilica. Stobi's basilicas are of further interest due to the buildings that preceded them: in one case a Jewish Synagogue, and in another an ornate building, currently under excavation, that may be an illusive house-church of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. At Bargala, a city newly built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, wood panels carved with Christian iconography and found near the episcopal basilica are extremely rare examples of work in this medium preserved outside the Near East. Finally, more than 50 terracotta tiles with both biblical scenes and inscriptions in relief recovered from a dump by the church at Vinica's fortress are unique for this region and were probably manufactured to decorate an ecclesiastical building surface at some point between the fifth and ninth centuries (they are on

display today in a small but immaculate new museum in Vinica). Across categories of archaeological evidence, it would seem as though the port city of Thessaloniki provided the greatest source of imported goods and the strongest ideological influence upon the land-locked communities of Macedonia during Late Antiquity. The majority of coins in two coin hoards from Veles were minted in Thessaloniki, pottery from the Eastern Mediterranean reached Macedonia through the same city, and some of the best Macedonian mosaics were inspired by their counterparts in Thessaloniki that in turn conveyed the artistic concepts of Asia Minor and Syria.

What happens to this culture after circa 600 AD, an issue of great relevance to my dissertation, remains as perplexing for Macedonia as in the rest of the Balkan Peninsula. Historical texts, some of them written centuries after the events they describe, state that the late 6<sup>th</sup> century invasion by Slavic and Avar migratory groups resulted in mass exoduses of local populations in Greece and the near-annihilation of civilization during this so-called "Dark Age" of the seventh to ninth centuries. The same catastrophic impact of these migratory groups is usually assumed for Macedonia, and in both countries the published traces of habitation, whether by migratory groups or local populations, are quite small in comparison to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. In contrast, in Bulgaria the arrival of the Proto-Bulgarian migratory group in the late 7<sup>th</sup> century and its subsequent establishment of the First Bulgarian Kingdom resulted in a more clearly identified Dark Age civilization that owes at least part of its especially good documentation to the self-identification of modern Bulgarians with their Proto-Bulgarian predecessors.

Archaeological finds at several sites shine at least a little light on Dark Age Macedonia. While the many coin hoards of the 570s have been reasonably associated with activity at Byzantine fortresses in anticipation of Avar and Slavic attacks, and the 7<sup>th</sup> century (as in the rest of the Balkans to varying degrees) is relatively anomic, the existence of several 7<sup>th</sup> century coin hoards indicates that coin circulation (and regional economies) did not completely disappear until the end of that century. And although the final phases of most excavated urban buildings date to the late 6<sup>th</sup> or early 7<sup>th</sup> century, their loss need not be tied solely to wartime destruction at the hands of migratory groups. As in much of the Romanized world, the idea of the city had gradually changed, and during Late Antiquity factors including a decrease in secular public benefaction, the obsolescence of most existing monumental building types, and of course the rise of Christianity meant that well

before the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century the status of the built space of the city as an expression of civic identity had drastically declined. Thus, at Heraclea Lyncestis, at some point in the 6<sup>th</sup> century the enormous but now irrelevant space of the theatre was put to a new use: simple mud-brick housing. Many other structures probably met their ends at the hands of accidental fire or earthquake, and the populace lacked the resources or will to build them again.

While many Late Antique urban sites and fortresses seem to have been abandoned by the early 7<sup>th</sup> century, at least a few remained occupied to some degree (the insufficient study of the countryside does not permit an assessment of the corresponding increase in rural life as civic life withered). Most of this body of occupation evidence belongs to the distinctive material culture of Slavic or related migratory groups, which is far more easily recognized and dated than most goods produced by local populations. "Slavic" pottery, generally reflecting the forms and decorations of coarse ware vessels found throughout the Balkans at both sites belonging exclusively to migratory groups and those of a Greco-Roman or mixed nature, is the most commonly identified late 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century object and was probably adopted by many local populations from the migratory newcomers. At Scupi (modern Skopje) Slavic pottery was found in the area of the Roman bath that was converted to simple housing in the late 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> century, at Heraclea Lyncestis an expansive layer of it was found as were bone plates from a reflex bow in the Avar or Slavic style, and at Bargala pottery of a Slavic or very similar type was recovered from the destruction layer. Additional evidence comes from several graves of the late sixth to eight centuries from the vicinities of Ohrid, Prilep, and Veles that contain fibulae (clothing pins) and other objects of a generally Slavic or migratory group style that find their closest comparison to burials of the "Komani-Kruja" group in Albania. These Albanian graves are best interpreted as representing a synthesis of migratory cultures with local Greco-Roman populations, and a similar composite cultural group surely developed in Dark Age Macedonia on a broad scale. From this perspective the nearly full absence in Macedonia of 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine style jewelry and belt buckles, common in Greece, the Crimean Peninsula, and much of the Mediterranean, is particularly striking: By the mid-7<sup>th</sup> century Macedonia would seem to have been largely cut off from all but the most local trade networks and was set upon its own path of cultural development.

I arrived in Skopje at the end of my trip and 127 years too late to share a drink with Sir Arthur

Evans, the famed excavator of Knossos (Crete). Evans, who visited ancient Scupi and other sites when the area was under Ottoman rule, recognized early on the value of this archaeological heritage. As the young nation of Macedonia continues to develop, it will be in the interest of everyone that this resource be protected, studied, and shared with the world.

## **SECOND SPRING TRIP Religious Monuments in Bulgaria Emil Nankov**

The second Spring Trip was devoted to visiting major sites and monuments related to the history of religions in Bulgaria. With an emphasis on the important centers for Christianity, we began our trip with a stop at the Glozhene Monastery "St. George the Victor" and continued to the Troyan Monastery "The Assumption", which boasts superb frescoes painted by the renowned 19<sup>th</sup> century artist, Zahari Zograf. One of the trip's highlights was the visit to Veliko Tarnovo, the capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, where trip participants witnessed the magnificence of "St. Forty Martyrs" Church and "St. Peter and St. Paul" Church, nestled in the Asenova Quarter, on both banks of Yantra river. The medieval tour ended with a brief stop at the Preobrazhenski Monastery "The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord", just a few kilometers away from Veliko Tarnovo, founded in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century by Tzar Ivan Alexander's Jewish wife, Sarah-Theodora.

Next we turned north to legionary fortresses and thriving civic establishments on the southern bank of the Danube river, which saw both the heyday of the Roman empire and the rise of Christianity. Our first stop was at the Roman town of Novae, near the city of Svishtov, an important crossing point, a home for several Roman legions and a distinguished bishopric during Late Antiquity. A bypass through Roman Iatrus near the village of Krivina, at the juncture of Yantra and Rositsa rivers, preceded a rewarding stay at Silistra, Roman Durostorum and Bulgarian Drastar – an important religious center during Late Antiquity and the Mediaeval period. Founded by the Romans, Durostorum established itself as an influential Christian bishopric, anticipating subsequent prominence as the seat of the first patriarch of Bulgaria, Damyan, proclaimed in mid 10<sup>th</sup> century. Our experience was nicely supplemented by the splendid array of objects exhibited at the Historical Museums in Svishtov and Silistra.

Venturing east to the Black Sea, we first stopped at the recently discovered sanctuary and temple dedicated to Kybele, the Pontic Mother of the Gods, dating from the Hellenistic and Roman

periods. Before reaching Varna (ancient Odessos), the third largest city in Bulgaria after Sofia and Plovdiv, we wandered through the rock-cut cells and chambers of the Aladzha Monastery, hewn by devoted monks-hesychasts, who sought union with God through silence and seclusion, away from the world's temptations.

Trip participants enjoyed a lengthy visit to the Varna Archaeological Museum, founded by the Czech archaeologist Karel Škorpil, and one of the largest in Bulgaria, where a number of precious monuments and artifacts from Odessos and its vicinity, including the famous Gold of Varna, are nicely displayed. Quick runs through Pliska and Preslav, the first and second capitals of the Medieval Bulgarian kingdom, followed. The importance of the Christian faith in medieval Bulgaria was strongly felt at the Golyama Basilica in Pliska and the Golden Church in Preslav built during the reign of Tzar Simeon I (866-927). A glimpse at the bas-relief of the well-known Madara horseman, perched on a high cliff by the road, near Shumen, reminded us of the claim to glory by the Bulgars during their early days of statehood. Before reaching Plovdiv (ancient Philippopolis), we received an extensive tour of the rich archaeological collection boasted by the Regional Historical Museum in Targovishte from the curators Angel Konakiev and Stefan Ivanov.

After a short visit to the well-displayed remains of a private residence of a wealthy citizen of Roman Philippopolis, we embarked on a journey to the Asenova Krepost ("Asen's Fortress") near Asenovgrad and Bachkovo Monastery "The Holy Virgin", enjoying the marvelous view from the winding pass through the Rhodopes Mountains. The medieval fortress, founded by the Byzantine emperors and later enlarged by tzar Ivan Asen II of Bulgaria in 1230 AD, lies on the crag overlooking the Chepelarska river, with the 13<sup>th</sup> century "The Holy Virgin" Church immediately below the peak. We continued south of Asenovgrad, to Bachkovo Monastery, the second largest monastery in Bulgaria, founded by Gregorius Bakuryani, a Georgian in the service of the Byzantine Empire, in 1083 AD. The oldest building in the complex is the principal church "The Holy Virgin", built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, while the porch of the 19<sup>th</sup> century "St Nicholas" Church features frescoes devoted to the Last Judgement.

Then we drove through the splendid meadows and rich valleys of the Rhodopes, stopping for a quick visit at the best preserved 6<sup>th</sup> century basilica, of solid brick construction, in Bulgaria, known as the Red Church, near the village of Perushtitsa. North of Dospat, at the tiny village of Batak, we looked with awe at one of the darkest

pages of Bulgaria's modern history – the "St. Nedelya" Church that saw the massacre of thousands of villagers by bashi-bozouks (Turkish *başıbozuk* - irregular soldiers of the Ottoman Army) and Pomaks during the April Uprising in 1876. The atrocities were later reported by Januarius MacGahan, a journalist of the *Daily News*, and Eugene Schuyler, U.S. Consul General in Istanbul, who visited Bulgaria to document the events.

Driving through the meeting point between Rila, Pirin and Rhodopes mountains we descended along the valley of Struma river southwards, reaching the town of Sandanski – the alleged hometown of Spartacus from the Thracian tribe, Maedi, who famously led the slave uprising against Rome in 72 BC. At Sandanski, our group met with Professors from New Bulgarian University, whose team of students and archaeologists from the Regional Historical Museum in Blagoevgrad is carrying out a fieldwork survey along the Lower Struma Valley. Trip participants benefited from an informative lecture by Professor Bogdan Atanasov about the project's preliminary results, while Professor Boyan Dumanov took the group for a short trip to the Late Antique basilica near the village of Mikrevo. After a visit to the rich collection of the RHM-Blagoevgrad, the Fellows also enjoyed a cordial meeting with Prof. Mark Stefanovich from the Department of Anthropology at the American University in Bulgaria. The trip ended with our visit to the Rila Monastery "St. Ivan Rilski", the largest and most famous in Bulgaria, the Boboshevo Monastery "St. Dimitar" and the Zemen Monastery "St. John the Divine".

## REPORTS

### A RESEARCH APRIL IN ATHENS Vladislav Ivanov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

I am a doctoral candidate in medieval history at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." I spent one month at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens as a fellow of the America for Bulgaria Foundation under a program administered by the American Research Center in Sofia. I sojourned in the hostel of the Canadian Institute in Greece and had the opportunity to use the rich resources of the libraries in Athens, which were very useful for research work on my thesis *The Order of St. John of Jerusalem at Rhodes as a Factor in the Balkan Politics, 1300–1421*. I located and read many materials in the Gennadius Library (Gennadeion) and the Blegen Library at ASCSA and in the Library of the British School at Athens. These libraries possess very good and vast resources on the medieval history

of the Balkans, particularly on the connections of the region with Western Europe. The literature on the relations between the Latins (or Franks) and the local Balkan population during the Age of the Crusades and after that and their role in the political destiny of the region has considerable presence in the above-mentioned libraries – mostly in the Gennadius. So, I was able to successfully accomplish the largest and most important part of my bibliographical research connected with my thesis.

It was a real pleasure to work in the unique scholarly atmosphere provided by the ASCSA and to meet so many interesting and intelligent people gathered at the School. I would like to mention the hospitality of Ms. Niamh Michalopoulou, the Manager of Loring Hall, Dr. Jonathan Tomlinson, the Assistant Director of the Canadian Institute in Greece, and to express my gratitude to Ms. Maria Georgopoulou, the Director of the Gennadius Library, and Professor Jack Davis, the ASCSA Director, who gave me the great opportunity to present a lecture on my subject in the Gennadeion. The economic situation in Greece in April 2010 was troublesome but this by no means disturbed my good impressions from the country and its capital. Athens is a very beautiful and lively town and perhaps most people in the world interested in the humanities would be happy to spend a month there. As a historian I am not an exception and shall always keep the beauty of the hills and the historical monuments of Athens, and the blue color of the Aegean Sea, in my heart.

#### **TRACKING THE SELEUCIDS IN THRACE** **Paul Kosmin, Harvard University**

My research examines the spatial ideology and spatial dynamics of the Seleucid kingdom. I am interested in the practices and discourses by which the Seleucid dynasty, as the main inheritor of Alexander the Great's Asian conquests, rooted their power in a particular place, naturalized the boundaries of their empire, and articulated the territory over which they ruled.

At the Battle of Corupedium in 281 BC Seleucus I Nicator defeated King Lysimachus and, by the principle of "spear-won land", absorbed his foe's possessions in Asia Minor and Thrace. Henceforth, until the Roman-imposed Peace of Apamea stripped the Seleucid house of all lands this side of the Taurus mountains, the dynasty claimed Thrace as its westernmost province and its edge in Europe. I came to the American Research Center in Sofia to examine the archaeological, numismatic, and epigraphic evidence for a Seleucid presence in Hellenistic

Thrace: was the region merely a "paper satrapy", incorporated into the Seleucid kingdom by the empty rhetoric of an aggrandizing ideology alone? or did the empire exert an administrative, military, on-the-ground control of the province? The answer is important for our understanding of the political history of third-century Thrace, the diplomatic exchanges between Rome and Antiochus III, and the nature of Seleucid imperial structures in general.

With Cameron Pearson, I visited various ancient sites in Bulgaria pertaining to this problem. At the dynastic center Kabyle, numerous bronze coins of Antiochus II, struck at Sardis in Asia Minor, indicate a Seleucid presence. It is possible, too, that catapult projectiles, found at Seuthopolis, indicate that Seuthes III's eponymous foundation was destroyed by a Seleucid army. We visited the Greek colonies of the Black Sea coast. Inscriptions from Apollonia and Mesembria suggest that a military governor was imposed on this region by a King Antiochus (II or III). The Thracian tombs around Kazanlak and the extraordinary treasures housed in various museums suggested the nature of imperial rule in the region: indirect vassalage, ritualized gift-giving of sympotic and military precious-metal objects, elite Hellenization. Equally important, our travels through the Bulgarian landscape gave us a much better understanding of Thracian topography, of the easy connectivity or separation between regions.

Needless to say, it was very rewarding to visit the towns, sites, and museum collections outside my specific research area, both for an understanding of Thrace in the *longue durée* and for the natural beauty and historical interest of these places in their own right. I am very grateful to everyone who assisted me and enriched my time in Bulgaria.

#### **RESEARCH ON THE BALKANS** **DURING THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES** **Nergiz Nazlar, Bilkent University, Turkey**

Being situated in the footsteps of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans for many centuries, Bulgaria is one of the most important countries for those who are studying the period. Since I am doing PhD research on the 16th and 17th centuries Balkans, I was looking for a chance to visit Bulgaria and to work with the significant Ottoman documents kept in the archive of the National Library "St. Cyril and St. Methodius." Thanks to a fellowship provided by the American Research Center in Sofia I was able to realize my plan.

The ARCS building was the place where I stayed in Sofia. The Center hosts a library, provides

accommodation for the foreign scholars and gives a chance of meeting other researchers, establishing good friendships and enjoying one's stay in Bulgaria. The ARCS staff is very friendly and always is ready to help in the time of need. In fact, I would like to thank Professor Kevin Clinton, Dr. Nora Dimitrova, Dr. Nikola Theodossiev, Dr. Emil Nankov, Valeria Bineva, Anton Kazakov and Hristo Alexiev for their kind assistance and support to my study.

ARCS is organizing regular lectures on diverse topics. These lectures make it possible to meet many renowned Bulgarian scholars, learn and argue about various subject matters, and widen one's knowledge of Bulgaria and the Balkans. Thanks to these lectures, I have established contacts with many scholars studying different academic disciplines and particularly with some Bulgarian experts in the Ottoman period. The National Library "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" in Sofia is a major institution that possesses important collections. The National Library has a rich Ottoman archive section where I conducted my research and found many unique documents that are very important for the Ottoman history studies. If you do not know the Cyrillic alphabet, it would be somewhat problematic to get oriented in Sofia. Before my arrival to Bulgaria, I was not able to read the Cyrillic alphabet. However, ARCS kindly offered me an intensive Bulgarian language course. Thanks to this opportunity and my teacher Rumyana Yordanova, I learned the alphabet and began to construct basic sentences in Bulgarian, which helped me a lot.

I spent one and a half months in beautiful Sofia. The combination of different types of architecture and buildings creates the specific atmosphere of the city, and was the first thing that impressed me. Watching the enchanting building of the "St. Alexander Nevski" Cathedral; winking my eyes because of the sunlight shining from the golden dome of the Russian Church St. Nikolai; walking on the streets near the "St. Sophia" Church; drinking coffee in a lovely café in the garden of the Ethnography Museum while surrounded by fascinating statues; traveling around in a trolley passing by the old communist-era building blocks beside the modern apartment buildings and shopping malls – these are some of the lovely moments I have enjoyed very much in Sofia. I already miss Sofia and my friends from ARCS.

**WANDERINGS AND MUSINGS IN THE  
BULGARIAN CAPITAL SOFIA**  
**Nicholas Grossenbacher, University of  
Washington**

Despite having traveled extensively in neighboring areas of Europe and the Middle East,

and a year spent studying Bulgarian language, literature, and history before I left for Sofia, the reality of contemporary Bulgaria challenged and defied my expectations. The oft-mentioned "meeting place" between the East and West (an honor which is claimed by or bestowed upon so many places as to be meaningless), Bulgaria has indeed been at the confluence of powerful currents of historical force. A first glance at life in the modern capital contains enough of the elements with which a "westerner" like myself might be familiar to give a sense of familiarity – a toe-hold on the culture – but a sustained gaze reveals a complexity which defies easy understanding.

Bulgaria seems to have lacked much of an image in the eyes of the world, although I think that this is beginning to change. When I would mention that I was going to Bulgaria, people would bring up weightlifters, cold war intrigue, or, on a more positive note, the famous "Voices of Bulgaria" recordings. While the impact of the Soviet project is so clearly visible and still entangled in the cultural and political life of the Bulgarians, to focus on this face obscures the deeper and richer foundations of Bulgarian identity. There is the Slavic contribution, of course, and the Turkish, but also the Greco-Roman and Byzantine, and the echoes of the steppe – vestigial memories of the Pontic steppe and of Iran – in the Thracian tribes, in the Proto-Bulgars and the mediaeval history of the Bulgarian Kingdom, and in the faces of this diverse people of a shared experience.

I stayed in the ARCS building, in a neighborhood called Hadzhi Dimitar. The area lies just to the northeast of the concentric rings that circumscribe the 19<sup>th</sup> century city plan. The narrow streets of central Sofia, with its painted facades that recall the forms of Austro-Hungary, stand in stark contrast to the shady lanes and modern forms of Hadzhi Dimitar, which was developed as a residential area centered around local industry under the Soviets. An old factory rises up above the neighborhood, characterized by large housing blocks, standard-issue rusty playground equipment, graffiti, dogs, little two-table establishments where men drink beer and rakiya, pleasant green parks, and an active market street. Much of the city beyond the compact center – which is the larger share – would fit this description. What I found particularly fascinating about Hadzhi Dimitar was that it also contained the remnants of the prewar suburb: stately old homes and buildings, in various states of occupation and deterioration, with lush little yards, sitting quietly in the shadows of mid-century monoliths.

In one peculiar little corner of the neighborhood, tucked between a highway and a railroad, a maze

of dirt paths crisscrosses an overgrown thicket where the older buildings remain undisturbed by newer constructions. Walking past a series of metal sheds on one of these dirt roads, an ancient man in a greasy jumpsuit called out behind me. He gestured that I come over to where he was standing in front of his machine shop, and began to ask me questions about myself. When I told him my name, he responded that he knew that, because he had earlier had a vision of Saint Nicholas, and that that was why he called me over. He excused himself, went inside, and after being gone for what seemed like a very long time, came out with one fresh fig for each of us. He told me he had lived in that house (gesturing vaguely behind himself) for eighty years.

Roma neighborhoods fill derelict pockets on the outskirts of town, between industrial areas or in open fields edging the city's reach. Everyday I walked past a complex of decrepit old buildings where adults sat gambling on defunct farm equipment and children carefully watched from the sides, learning the craft. I once got lost while exploring the northern part of the city and wandered into a rather large Roma settlement. It reminded me, on a much smaller scale, of the sort of poverty I had encountered in the massive slums of Mexico City and New Delhi. Corrugated metal shanties were cobbled together along a dirt path where yellow dogs drank from a steady stream of trickling wastewater. Bored teenagers sat on fences and stared, and chickens pecked around in the dust.

In Sofia there is work. It draws upon the youth from throughout the country, bringing together individuals who are seeking more than what is available where they come from. The young Bulgarians I met – students, teachers, musicians, furniture store project managers (“the new Ikea”) – seemed more outward-looking than the older generations. I also met a number of foreign workers: Germans who worked for tech companies and chose to live in Bulgaria, where they could make comparable wages in a smaller economy; British and American expats, often married to a Bulgarian, running a business or enjoying a cushy retirement. I met one Bulgarian woman who had been a professional soccer player and had lived in Germany for many years. Like a number of Bulgarians I had met who had lived abroad, Dani was very conflicted in her feelings toward Bulgaria. She worked at a German company, she socialized with her German coworkers, but I could see that there was some sort of barrier there; she was not German, she was Bulgarian. The Germans raved about the good life in Bulgaria, but for Dani the issue was more complex. She was drawn back to Bulgaria by a sense of familial connection, of rootedness in

that place, and yet felt a dissatisfaction with the state of contemporary Bulgaria, especially after her experience of life in the West.

Particularly striking in Sofia is the material disparity between “ordinary Bulgarians,” i.e. how most people appeared to live, versus the wealth and luxury of the few on display in the city center: posh shops, shiny black Range Rovers, fancy bars and restaurants, elegant, fashionable women with cold eyes and muscular men in track suits and gold chains. This is the image that is celebrated in Bulgarian pop culture, like the Chalga music videos and TV shows, huge banner advertisements on the sides of buildings for liqueurs, night clubs and Jaguars. There is also a professional set in smart suits, politicians and businessmen, and among them and everyone else, Roma shuffle through the streets with tongs and bags, wearing reflective vests that say “garbage collector” on them.

The architectural fabric of the city reveals the complexity of its character and demonstrates the weight of its past. The ancient gates of Roman Serdica are integrated into the very modern public transport system, where souvenir shops sell icons, rose oil, traditional crafts and kitsch. A Byzantine church and an excavated bath occupy the central courtyard of the presidential residence, originally built as an administrative center under Stalin. Across the street from that an Ottoman mosque houses the National Museum of Archaeology and an outdoor café is set amidst the fragmentary ruins of Serdica. Steps away from all of that are the greatest monuments to the Revival period, late 19<sup>th</sup> century palaces that would be at home in Vienna or Budapest and which are now, as museums, the repositories of Bulgarian cultural memory and imagination. It is to this period that many turn in their search for cultural foundations as they look to the future, now struggling with the effects of a half-century of the brutal hand of Soviet ideology acting upon the culture and society of Bulgaria.

The historical arc of the Soviet period is evident in its architectural impact on the city. From the early monoliths of Soviet mythology, heavy-handed parks, war memorials and battle reliefs, to the more reserved art of the later, post-Stalin period, the aesthetic and ideology of the Soviet regime are so thoroughly woven into the urban fabric of Sofia as to be impossible to remove physically, at least in the space of one generation. But the crumbling state of all this today, the defacement of somber memorials by colorful graffiti and the reclamation of concrete landscapes by skateboarders with iPod plugs in their ears, speaks to the fact that while the vestiges of this past remain, they become less and less important

to the younger generations, those who will lead Bulgaria through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Contemporary Bulgaria struggles with the intoxicating effects of a new capitalism. And while I detected a will to political change in many Bulgarians I spoke with, a not-insignificant concentration of power remains in the hands of those who exercised influence under the Soviets and were the beneficiaries of that system. These contradictory facts are eloquently expressed architecturally through the use of imposing Soviet-era buildings by the modern government, which stand alongside contemporary glass and steel buildings as one might find in Chicago or Rotterdam.

Many of the young Bulgarians I met in Sofia expressed this conflict casually in conversation, through their personalities and their aspirations. Their immediate concerns were familiar, like job prospects, their studies, desires to emigrate, working to support their families, social lives. This is not to say that I did not sense a strong identity with Bulgaria among these young people, but they seemed by and large to have an outward focus, an attention to Europe and the West, and much about their lives resembled my own – facebook, mp3s, etc.

There was much dissatisfaction and even anger with the current order, an active grappling with what it means to be European, but also a parallel strain of hedonism and abandon – perhaps the inevitable seductions of the modern capitalist lifestyle. Fast cars, stylish clothes, drugs, electronic dance music... the celebration of these things by some struck me as a somewhat exaggerated expression of the strains in the American youth culture with which I am familiar. But one also observes a genuine frustration with the obstacles to progress and change provided by the entrenched interests who still hold power. I discerned a will in the youth of Bulgaria, however, to change, but the organic life-cycle needs to unfold in order to remove those old elements, those middle-aged bastions of the old regime, really so recent, and give the potential for a New Bulgaria room to open up – to be tied into the world. Change is painful.

**DISSERTATION RESEARCH AT THE  
AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES  
AT ATHENS**

**Kamen Boyadziev, National Institute of  
Archaeology and Museum**

The topic of my PhD thesis, *Weapons from the Chalcolithic Period in Bulgaria*, has not been a subject of comprehensive research in Bulgaria or in neighboring countries. My work on this project has two main directions. The first regards the collection of data and the classification of all finds

from the Chalcolithic in Bulgaria (5th millennium BC) which may be interpreted as weapons: stone mace heads, battle axes of stone, copper and antler, projectile points of flint, bone and copper, sling-shots of stone and clay. Most of these artifacts have not been published yet and my research will bring them to light. The second direction in my thesis is the analysis of the various questions posed by the artifacts. Especially interesting and important is the problem of the function of the artifacts: Which of them were hunting tools, for example, and which may be interpreted as weapons for warfare? Is it possible to prove the existence of specialized weapons for warfare, to clarify their appearance and distribution in the different Chalcolithic cultures, and to study them in the context of, for example, settlement fortifications or skeletal trauma? Answering such questions will promote a better understanding of the ethnic formation, the cultural processes and the social and economic changes during the 5th millennium BC, a period in which large cultural complexes formed in the Balkan Peninsula.

The one-month research at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens supported by the America for Bulgaria Foundation and administered by the American Research Center in Sofia was of real importance for my work. I had the chance to observe collections of weapons (especially flint and obsidian arrowheads and spearheads) from the Neolithic and Chalcolithic period in Greece, some of which were unpublished, displayed in different museums. This opportunity provided me with a holistic view on the spread of various weapons in the Southern Balkans and the Aegean.

The time spent at the Blegen Library and the Library of the British School was also very useful for me. I found many important publications that are not available in the Bulgarian libraries. These publications include experimental studies, use-wear analysis, ethnological studies regarding the function of some artifacts and general studies on prehistoric warfare. Such studies are becoming popular in the US and Western Europe but are still almost unknown in Bulgaria.

I am grateful to the staff of ASCSA and the Wiener Laboratory for the opportunity to become familiar with their studies and to participate in the flint-knapping workshop. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Rozalia Christidou who kindly helped me with information about the prehistoric bone points from Northern Greece and introduced me to micro-wear analysis of bone tools. The time spent in Greece was really useful and was a great experience for me.



ARCS Fellow Jeremy Ott at the Asenova Krepost, an impressive Mediaeval fortress



Emil Nankov, Jeremy Ott, and Nikola Theodossiev at the Troyan Monastery, Central Bulgaria



Professor Boyan Dumanov (New Bulgarian University) and Jeremy Ott at the early Christian basilica near Mikrevo, Sandanski district, SW Bulgaria



Anton Kazakov and Jeremy Ott at the Bachkovo Monastery in the Rhodope, founded in AD 1083 by Gregorius Bakuryani from Georgia



Professor Bogdan Atanasov (New Bulgarian University) lecturing on NBU's field survey in the Lower Struma Valley



Professor Lynn Roller, ARCS Trustee, giving a lecture at the New Bulgarian University



The premiere of Catharsis at ARCS



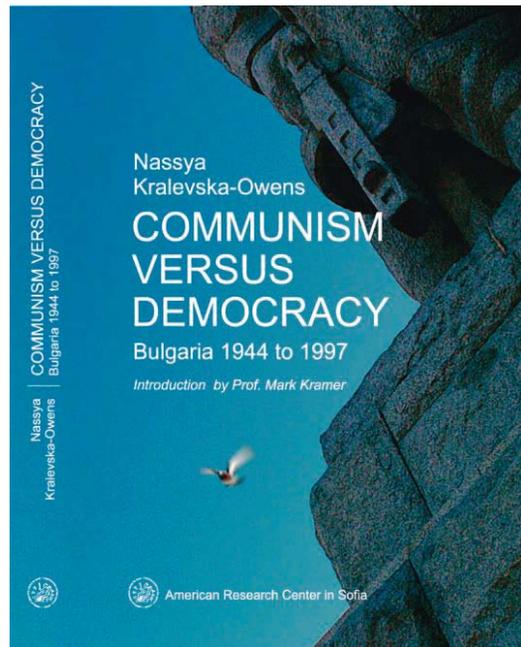
The premiere of Catharsis at the *Cinema House*. ARCS Library Assistant and expert on Balkan Studies and Music Hristo Alexiev (right) moderates the discussion.



A captivated audience at the premiere of Catharsis, Sofia, Cinema House



ARCS Director Professor Denver Graninger and his wife Tanya Spicer on Vitosha mountain



ARCS proudly presents its first publication in a series of monographs on Bulgarian history

## **EXPLORING ANCIENT AND MODERN BULGARIA**

**John Tully, Princeton University**

This April, I was very fortunate to be awarded an America for Bulgaria Foundation grant to enable me to visit the American Research Center in Sofia. My justification for the visit was connected with research I was undertaking at the time into forms of maritime connectivity in the ancient world: my primary focus has been the Aegean, in particular the Cyclades, but the settlements on the Black Sea coast form an interesting alternative case-study, and the opportunity to incorporate them into my thinking was not one to be missed. A second reason was more historic: an underlying dissatisfaction with the indiscriminate and at times blasé use of the term 'Thracian' by authors, both ancient and modern. The chance to investigate how the material culture on the ground, as it were, meshed with that considered 'Thracian' further afield was very appealing. Just as important, though, was a curiosity about modern Bulgaria, with its own unique history affected by its triumphs and trials through the centuries.

On a non-academic note, I particularly appreciated the offer to attend a folk music concert at the Sofia Conservatory on my final day. It lasted over three hours without an interval(!), but this gave me even more opportunity to appreciate the diversity and rich harmonies of Bulgarian music (my favorite: probably a superb Gaida trio from near Varna).

A similarly thrilling experience was to listen to female cantors at an Orthodox service in Varna. I imagine that they cannot be as infrequent as my effectively anecdotal experience suggests, but I have lost count of the number of services I have attended or happened upon this past year, and the cantor or choir has always been male, until now. Again, the different pitch made the harmonies all the more vibrant, and neatly encapsulates how so much of what I saw both in museums was on one level familiar, on another not.

Perhaps my favorite day, though, was spent in Plovdiv, getting lost in the old town and admiring the architecture. The view from Dzhumayata Square sums up what was so enchanting about the city: a modern statue of Philip of Macedon, a thin wedge of the Roman Stadium, the Dzhumaya mosque, and a National Revival building: over two thousand years! I look forward to returning when the Archaeological Museum is open again.

My weeks in Bulgaria were more successful than I could have dreamed in all three aspects, and I should like to take this opportunity to thank the

curators of the museums I visited across Bulgaria, who were too kind when faced with my bumbling requests for photography permits and other such. My greatest thanks, though, must particularly go to the members resident in Sofia, Dr. Nikola Theodossiev, the ARCS Associate Academic Director, and his colleagues, who welcomed me so warmly into their community. I look forward to returning in the future!

## **DESSERTATION RESEARCH AT ATHENS**

**Ivanka Slavova, Sofia University "St. Kliment  
Ohridski"**

My dissertation *Archaeobotanical Research as a Resource of Data about the Paleodiet, Paleoenvironment and the Use of Plants in Ritual Context during Antiquity in Present Day Southeastern Bulgaria* examines plant remains from archaeological sites. Such research requires much field work and collecting samples, followed by laboratory work and getting acquainted with pertinent scholarship.

Thanks to the America for Bulgaria Foundation fellowships program administered by the American Research Center in Sofia, I had the chance to visit the American School of Classical Studies at Athens where I located many important publications related to my research and used the resources of the Wiener Laboratory.

Before arriving at Athens I tried to carefully prepare my schedule because I had only one month in front of me and so many things to do. The great capacity of the Blegen Library at the American School amazed me! It surpassed my expectations and forced me to reorganize my work. First, I prepared a new list of titles that I needed. My aim was to find more information about archaeobotanical research in the neighboring countries like Greece and Turkey. There were many publications about food, environment and agriculture in the ancient world in the Blegen Library. I also found some reference books and guides about the methodology and theory of archaeobotanical research, which were very important and helpful to me.

I spent a lot of time in the Wiener Laboratory, which is a great place to work on interdisciplinary projects. Thanks to the kind support and advice of Dr. Sherry Fox, who is the Director of the lab, and the entire lab's staff, I was able to work with microscopes in order to define precisely some details of my samples. In addition, I located many important publications in the Wiener Laboratory library.

During my stay in Athens an interdisciplinary conference was held--*Subsistence, Economy and*

*Society in the Greek World. Improving the Integration of Archaeology and Science.* It was organized by the Netherlands Institute at Athens and was very interesting to me because many of the reports that were connected with archaeobotany, and I had the chance to meet some experts working all over Europe. Also, I was able to visit and observe all major archaeological sites in Athens, and the National Archaeological Museum, the Benaki Museum, and the Museum of Cycladic Art. I was invited to take part in the trip to Aegina, organized by ASCSA for the Regular Members. It was a fantastic experience. Together with another Bulgarian ABF-FADS fellow at ASCSA, we organized our own trips to Sounion, Delphi, Mycenae, Tyrins and Corinth. It was really exciting to visit these famous places about which I had read so much.

I am very grateful for the warm attitude of the entire ASCSA staff. My experience at the American School would not have been so beneficial and pleasant without their unstinting help. In ASCSA I met a lot of friendly people. Every day during lunch and dinner we had very interesting conversations and exchange of ideas. Through these discussions I received valuable advice about some of my ideas. This was my first trip to Greece, but it will definitely not be the last. I take the opportunity to thank again the entire ARCS staff and especially Dr. Nikola Theodossiev, Associate Academic Director of ARCS, and Dr. Emil Nankov, ARCS Archaeology Program Officer, for their valuable advice and help.

**A MONTH IN THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF  
CLASSICAL STUDIES**

**Iliya Hadzhipetkov, Sofia University "St.  
Kliment Ohridski"**

I spent a major part of my scholarship searching, collecting and studying different publications of prehistoric sites, with an emphasis on polished stone tools from the Neolithic period in the Balkans and Asia Minor. For a period of one month I had the opportunity to explore and reconsider several specific problems related to my research topics.

The main part of my work was connected with the rich resources of the Blegen Library and the Library of the British School at Athens. I had the opportunity to study various aspects of polished stone tools from different sites in Europe, Asia and America; to explore different models used by ancient man for extraction, processing and distribution of raw materials and finished tools; and to track cultural and regional differences in the preferences and knowledge of our ancestors. Thanks to the numerous anthropological, cultural

and methodological studies collected in both libraries, I was able to compare the archeological context of the ancient finds from the Balkans and Asia Minor with modern records concerning the Highland tribes of New Guinea. This study allowed me to reconsider some aspects of the polished stone tools, such as their meaning, symbolism and particular place in the society, which cannot be detected clearly on the basis of the data from archaeological excavations.

A very important part of my work was connected with the team of experts working in the Wiener Laboratory. The contact with them gave me the chance to consider the artifacts beyond traditional archaeological thinking. I located extremely interesting and valuable books and geological maps in their library. At a workshop, I observed invaluable demonstrations by different experts on the traceology of bone and flint tools, and pathology. I even tried to produce a flint tool using ancient techniques. Unfortunately, this task was significantly more complicated than it appeared to be, and I did not have great success.

During my stay in Greece I managed to visit several archaeological sites and museums. I was especially impressed by Tyrins, the Benaki Museum in Athens and the Archaeological Museum in Nafplion. The specific material and the wonderful way of arranging the expositions left an excellent impression. I also visited Abdera and processed material from the Neolithic settlement of Makri. I wish to extend my gratitude to N. Efstratiou, who allowed me to see unpublished polished stone tools from the archaeological site, and the staff of the Abdera museum, who were extremely kind and helpful.

Of course, my stay in ASCSA also included other types of entertainment besides scholarly work. For me it was really nice to make trips with friends and colleagues around the numerous parks and archaeological sites, to meet different people and to enjoy the exciting Mediterranean atmosphere.

**A FELLOWSHIP AT THE AMERICAN  
RESEARCH CENTER IN SOFIA**

**Carmen Rogobete, Babeş-Bolyai University**

During my stay in Sofia at the American Research Center as a Fellow under the 2010 America for Bulgaria Foundation Short-term Research Fellowships Program, in the second half of March 2010, I managed to visit places of interest for my research topics and also to interact with professors and scholars that provided useful information regarding the Greek colonies on the Bulgarian Black Sea littoral. I am currently

working on a doctoral thesis entitled *The Domestic Architecture in the Greek Colonies on the Western and Northern Shores of the Black Sea (End of the 7th – End of the 1st Centuries BC)* and the purpose for visiting Bulgaria consisted in having access to some of the related evidence from the Greek colonies on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast (Apollonia Pontica, Mesambria, Odessos, Dionysopolis), as well as in gathering new data about the archaeological excavations carried out in some sites in Bulgaria.

In Sofia, I attended two of the lectures organized by ARCS that were given by Dr. Zvi Keren from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and by Professor Ivan Gatsov from the New Bulgarian University. I also visited the National Museum of History, where I was able to take photos of some of the Greek artifacts and inscriptions discovered in the present day cities of Sozopol, Nesebar and Varna, and the medieval Boyana Church, where I observed unique frescoes and the oldest portraits of mediaeval Bulgarian aristocrats. In addition, I visited the Archaeological Museum where I had the opportunity to see grave goods (vessels, terracotta figurines, glass and metal objects) dating from the 6th to 1st centuries BC which were discovered in the necropoleis of the ancient Greek colonies Apollonia Pontica and Odessos.

During my stay in Bulgaria I also managed to visit Burgas, Nesebar and Plovdiv. I observed the collections displayed in the Regional Museum of History in Burgas, several places with historical significance in Plovdiv (the Old Town, the Roman odeon, the Roman theatre, the Roman stadium) and the Byzantine churches in Nesebar.

The Short-term Fellowship has provided me with the opportunity to enlarge my overall knowledge about Bulgarian history and archaeology and gave me access to new data related to the recent excavations carried out on some of the archaeological sites on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROAD TRIP IN BULGARIA**

**Cameron Pearson, City University of New York**

Setting out Monday morning from the American Research Center in Sofia we headed southeast in our rented Kia Cerato toward 'seven hilled' Plovdiv, ancient Philippopolis. We arrived by midday and discovered that the archaeological museum, long under reconstruction, was still closed. Unfazed we headed straight for the center of town and the remains of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD Roman stadium, the western end of which lies beneath the modern street. The stadium is not well kept up but the lion moldings under the seats

along the aisles are preserved. Across the street is the Dzhumaya mosque which is still in use, and the road leading to the Acropolis, which also leads to the old town and its stunning 19<sup>th</sup> century merchant houses beveled out over the road. Wending our way we stumbled across the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD Roman theatre around which excavations are ongoing. It has *phylai* names carved on the seats for when the *koinon Thracon* met the emperor. The Acropolis itself is a hodgepodge of Thracian to Byzantine walls with finds apparently dating back to an Early Iron Age settlement. It was difficult to make out exactly what we were seeing, but the earlier cyclopean walls stood out clearly from the later ashlar and Byzantine masonry. We left the following day but not before visiting the historical museum and a few 19<sup>th</sup> century churches which gave an enticing view into the history of painting in Plovdiv that played a major role in the Bulgarian Renaissance.

After a slightly roundabout route, we made it around Yambol and to the site of Kabyle. We walked up the hill which is surrounded by flat plains on all sides and was clearly a valuable strategic location. A fascinating Hellenistic fortification structure sits on its top. Below there is an impressive Roman bath and military barracks as well as a basilica. The ongoing excavations appeared to have unearthed a Thracian building beneath the Roman horeum. The finds from the Neolithic to the Late Antique periods in the museum were impressive.

Arriving in Burgas, we were given a private tour of its archaeological museum by Martin Giuzelev. I spent most of my time in the court yard trying to read the many Late Roman inscriptions strewn about, most of which came from the necropolis discovered on one of Burgas' nearby beaches. From there Dr. Giuzelev took us to Sozopol, ancient Apollonia, Anchialos and Nesebar, ancient Mesambria. The museums at Sozopol and Nesebar showed us the clear difference between the Black Sea, and its mostly Greek influence, and the more Thracian interior from which we had come.

The next day in Varna, ancient Odessos, we saw the world's oldest gold "treasure" which had been recovered from Chalcolithic, 5th millennium BC graves, as well as the striking Bronze Age, Thracian, Greek and Roman finds and grave monuments. We made one stop at Pliska to see the remains of the first Early Mediaeval capital of the Bulgarian Kingdom and its Proto-Bulgarian temple and palace.

Finally, we spent a day and a half in the Kazanlak region. We paid a 20 leva (c. 14 US dollars)

entrance fee to see the original, rather than the copy shown to most, of the Early Hellenistic painted tomb in Kazanlak, with its battle scenes, procession and heroic feast. And while only the Early Hellenistic monumental tomb of the Thracian King Seuthes III was open near Shipka, we were briefed on the valley and its hundreds of unexcavated tumuli, which stretch from the Early Iron to Hellenistic Ages, by Dr. Georgi Nehrizov from the National Institute of Archaeology in Sofia and Adela Sobotkova from the University of Michigan. For anyone interested in Thracian tumuli there is ripe opportunity for excavation if you are willing to put some time in a networking and collaboration with the Bulgarian archaeologists.

**TUNDZHA REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, 2009–2010 SEASON**

**Adela Sobotkova, University of Michigan  
Shawn Ross, University of New South Wales**

A year ago, the ARCS Newsletter featured the first report on an archaeological survey project in Kazanlak, central Bulgaria. This work began as the Suburban Seuthopolis Project directed by Dr. Georgi Nehrizov of the National Institute of Archaeology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. It included a large contingent of foreign participants, including ARCS fellows and students from countries across all of Europe. While initially it focused on the region of Kazanlak, later that year the project expanded to include an additional area in Yambol region. This second study area served as a comparative sample to Kazanlak and helped us contextualize and contrast the results from different parts of the Tundzha River Valley. In Yambol, the project with a new name, the Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project (TRAP; <http://www.tundzha.com>) operated with the assistance and under the permit of Ilija Iliev, Director of the Yambol History Museum. In spring of 2010 the Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project returned to Kazanlak to conduct a third season of surface survey in Bulgaria. While the Kazanlak project was a result of serendipitous invitation, the Yambol study area was selected with care to complement the former. Our intent was to investigate the settlement patterns in the royal Hellenistic landscape of Kazanlak and compare them with the alleged powerbase of Thracian society in southeast Bulgaria. After being invited to explore the urban hinterland of Seuthopolis, we selected the fertile lands of Yambol region to investigate Kazanlak's earlier rural counterpart.

The 2009 Suburban Seuthopolis project has enjoyed detailed coverage in the 2009 ARCS Newsletter, so only its principal goals and results

will be summarized here. The aims of the Kazanlak 2009 project were to investigate the immediate hinterland of the Thracian capital, Seuthopolis, now submerged under the Koprinka Reservoir, and to search for sites subsidiary to this Hellenistic metropolis. The initial results from 2009 showed that the landscape of Seuthopolis has suffered heavily from modern amelioration and yielded a rather incoherent picture of settlement. The only apparent pattern in the ca. 25 sq km radius around the town was a "vacuuming effect", in which the immediate hinterland of a metropolis is emptied of smaller sites – a pattern sometimes seen around large and long-occupied sites. This pattern was puzzling in the Thracian context because Seuthopolis is not, by Mediterranean standards, particularly large, nor did it exist as a regional center prior to the late 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. Such a settlement needs an economic basis for its sustenance, but an economic foundation of permanent agricultural settlements failed to materialize upon our first inspection, perhaps due to the limited area surveyed intensively. The results, nevertheless, motivated the conception of a second campaign in Kazanlak that would extend the sample area and verify the accuracy of each of the possible explanations for the lack of sites.

Southeast Bulgaria, namely Yambol region, provided a very different picture of settlement in the fall 2009. The field walking strategies were consistent with those of Kazanlak. The official permit holders here were the Yambol Museum personnel, who also took a direct interest in the survey. They joined our daily field walking, provided legacy data, and assisted with pottery analysis. Three teams totaling 15–18 people comprised a mixture of local and foreign students and researchers. Coming from different ends of Europe and the US they enthusiastically walked over the easily accessible landscape and extensive agricultural fields of the Tundzha watershed. Unlike the puzzling barrenness of Seuthopolis' urban hinterland, a much neater and more coherent picture of rural settlement emerged after only a month of tireless walking. It is necessary to add that the Yambol region was partially in a military zone, which restricted modern activity and resulted in better landscape preservation. In covering an organic area of 28 sq km we found 12 sites and off-site scatters, a much higher density of habitation than around Seuthopolis, which yielded only half as much. Equally remarkable, most of these concentrations displayed continuity from Early Iron Age through Roman and sometimes later periods. Their position neatly copied the variations of local topography, with habitation sites spread on the low, fertile hillsides and terraces above two

streams, and some 50 burial mounds dotting the ridge between them.

Reports from both Kazanlak and Yambol 2009 seasons were presented at the Archaeological Reports session in Sofia on 11 March, 2010, to a very lively and interactive audience. During these sessions and later, we had the opportunity to observe the changes in the mood of Bulgarian archaeologists, especially in their approach to the surface survey. A number of new projects have sprung up over the last year and overall their quality has improved significantly since our arrival in Bulgaria. People from different disciplines were drawn in and considered the advantages and challenges offered by archaeological survey.

After a successful season in 2009, the Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project returned to Kazanlak again in March and April 2010 to continue the survey of suburban Seuthopolis. This time the project's objectives were to explore the area between the hinterland of Seuthopolis and the slopes of Stara Planina Mountains. Two transects radiating north from the Koprinka Reservoir investigated 30 sq km across various environmental and topographic zones at different rates of intensity. Intensive (15 m interval) survey of the lowlands and agricultural lands was complemented by extensive (20–25 m interval) walking of areas with low surface visibility like meadows. Highland regions were covered by a methodology jointly developed with our Bulgarian partners: In this "adverse terrain survey", teams walk tracks through forested or mountainous areas and record their paths, sight distances (through trees, etc.), and the width of the track assessed. Although adverse terrain survey is less comprehensive than systematic intensive or extensive survey, the associated recordkeeping allows us to assess the actual area surveyed and treat it as a controlled sample of the region under study.

The areas investigated in the Kazanlak region included the municipalities of Kran, Hadzhi Dimitrovo, Enina, Shipka, Yasenovo, Skobelevo, Gorno Sahrane and Golyamo Dryanovo. An average of four teams of five archaeologists each recorded environmental variables and surface artifacts in digital (using a GPS-equipped PDA) and paper format. Sixty team-days were spent in the field between 17th March and 11th April 2010. Considerable resources were dedicated to training participants. Returning students of archaeology were instructed in using ArcGIS software and operating our PDA-GPS equipment for digital recording in the field. Thanks are extended to the American Research Center in

Sofia which allowed us to use its premises for the training prior to the beginning of the project.

Some 204 archaeological sites were registered during the survey, including: 178 burial mounds (37 of them small, "defunct" mounds, nearly erased by erosion or human activity) and 26 flat site and offsite scatters (concentrations of pottery or masonry). In addition six lithic artifacts (grind stones and tools) were collected with one well preserved stone axe among them. The material collected includes material from the Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age, Early and Late Iron Age, the Roman period, Late Antiquity, and the Medieval and Ottoman periods. The numbers and dates above remain preliminary as analysis continues; ceramic materials are still being classified and all data further processed and interpreted.

The large area covered by the survey allowed for previously unknown settlement patterns to emerge. Most salient was the association of archaeological sites with the water sources, in particular with the tributaries of Tundzha River. The river's meanders were settled at regular intervals with sites dating from Chalcolithic to the Ottoman period. Another characteristic settlement area includes the spurs of the Stara Planina hills. Easily defensible and with excellent views over the Tundzha Valley, these sites may represent guard towers or fortresses controlling the access to the valley and monitoring the traffic along mountain passes. Overall the number of early settlements and mound necropoleis demonstrate that Seuthopolis was founded within a well-inhabited landscape.

The choice of transects also provided a unique opportunity to test the feasibility of surface survey in an area heavily impacted by recent geological activity. The Stara Planina and their foothills generate colluvial deposits that sometimes reach several meters in depth. These sediments bury large portions of ancient landscape; it was a challenge for the teams to monitor the extent and depth of colluvium and evaluate how its presence affects the recoverability of ancient sites and materials in different areas of the valley.

While the surface survey was being conducted, Dr. Simon Connor, an Australian paleobotanist now based in Portugal, returned to Kazanlak and continued to collect environmental samples and likely sources of ancient pollen in the foothills and ridges of the Stara Planina. Armed with a small inflatable boat and a new coring device he took samples from the bottom of mountain lakes. These samples will be analyzed to shed light on the environmental history of the Kazanlak Valley.

During the processing stage of the project, Ms. Rebecca Bennet, a doctoral student from the Bournemouth University, joined the team and assisted with satellite remote sensing. Remote sensing using archival IKONOS imagery (provided by a grant from the GeoEye Foundation) began during the survey, and a number of days were dedicated to ground control after the end of field walking. Both the analysis and ground control were undertaken by advanced students on the project who were supervised by Ms. Bennet and Ms. Sobotkova. Ms. Bennet suggested new documentation strategies and visualization methods, recommended the inclusion of airborne LIDAR among our remote sensing strategies, and offered advice on funding sources for its acquisition.

Vagaries of weather and unexpected natural events characterized the spring of 2010. The Icelandic volcano whose ashes disrupted travel all over Europe left a few volunteers stranded on the project due to flight cancellations. Some ventured a long bus ride home, others decided to remain and help wrap up the field season. Their forced stay was, ultimately, of mutual benefit, as their extra help allowed for the timely completion of preliminary find processing; this work was punctuated by adventures, especially the explorations of Stara Planina caves and mountains near Kazanlak.

This new project was supervised by Dr. Andy Herries, an Australia-based archaeological scientist from the University of New South Wales who joined our team to search the Stara Planina Mountains for caves suitable for his research interests. Dr. Herries' specialties include cave excavation, geochronology, paleomagnetism, and environmental reconstruction. His goals this April were to sample speleothemes from caves suitable for environmental analysis and to check for caves that could produce archaeological materials from the Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods (without ignoring later material). To facilitate these tasks the Kazanlak tourist club "Orlovo Gnezdo" and an associated Speleology club were contacted and their assistance secured. In only a few days Dr. Herries visited and assessed the archaeological potential of eight caves in the region. This speleological prospection is scheduled to continue in the fall and extend into other mountainous regions around Bulgaria.

On a more casual note, a number of surprises in Kazanlak contributed to the team's enthusiasm during the spring 2010 field season. Since twenty people could not squeeze in a single house, we split up between archaeological bases in Kran and Kazanlak, graciously provided by the Kazanlak History Museum. The foreign team thus

stumbled upon a unique opportunity to live in a traditional Bulgarian house from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which even housed part of an ethnographic display about the Bulgarian national hero, Tsvyatko Radoynov. The brick and wood structure, with its covered porch and large yard populated by a dozen cats, provided the perfect setting for pottery processing as well as late night debates about the Bulgarian and Thracian past. We could not have found a place with better atmosphere for our project.

In late April we were thrilled to learn that our grant application submitted to the inaugural round of the America for Bulgaria Foundation International Collaborative Archaeological & Bioarchaeological Research Program was successful. This grant will complement the final year of funding we have from the Australian Research Council, allowing Dr. Connor and Dr. Herries to greatly expand their palaeoenvironmental research and cave surveys. It will also fund excavations at the Thracian through Medieval hilltop fortress of Dodoparon in the Yambol region and allow further investigation of a significant regional center within our lower Tundzha study area. We are extremely grateful to the ABF for allowing us this opportunity to extend our research.

Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project remains dedicated to its initial aims: to explore archaeological landscapes and reconstruct paleoenvironments along the upper and middle Tundzha River valley. The initial challenges with partner selection, permitting issues, and suspicion about our intentions seem to be partially overcome thanks to the intervention of Dr. Georgi Nehrizov of the National Institute of Archaeology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the continued overall support of the American Research Center in Sofia, and healthy partnerships with regional museums in Kazanlak and Yambol. TRAP is also striving to acquire official recognition as an international project from the Bulgarian government. The International Permit request was lodged at the Institute of Archaeology several months ago, but it still awaits review by members of the Field Committee and approval by the Ministry of Culture and the Council of Ministers.

The project has one more field season to complete in the Yambol region this coming fall. In 2011, a study season will be devoted to the study of samples collected during fieldwork (palynology, paleomagnetism, and other laboratory work) and to writing the final report for the 2009–2010 seasons (which we plan to publish as a British Archaeological Reports edited volume). Only a reduced field campaign is to

continue in Kazanlak region under the direction of Dr. Nehrizov. The foreign participants will focus on processing all the data from both regions on the road towards the final publication. Overall the participants in TRAP have found the multi-disciplinary investigations in Bulgaria during 2009–2010 tremendously rewarding and discovered several new promising research opportunities. We are currently seeking new funding sources to support another long-term campaign beginning in 2012, which would both continue with the tasks set above but delve deeper into the research potential of Bulgarian archaeology.

### MEETINGS, LECTURES, AND DISCUSSIONS

ARCS staff members have been busy over the last six months promoting the work of the Center and developing new opportunities.

**December-January:** ARCS Associate Academic Director Dr. Nikola Theodossiev met with Mr. Marshall Lee Miller, a Director of the America for Bulgaria Foundation; with Professor Julia Stefanova, Executive Director of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission and Trustee of ARCS; with Fulbright grantees working in Bulgaria; and attended a business luncheon with Ambassador Richard L. Morningstar, U.S. Special Envoy for Eurasian Energy, organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria on the topic of: 'Transparency, Diversification and Security: Opportunities for Expanded U.S. – Bulgaria Cooperation.'

Professor Kevin Clinton, Chair of the ARCS Managing Committee, and Dr. William Parkinson, Curator at the Field Museum in Chicago, discussed projects and strategies with the Directors of the America for Bulgaria Foundation in New York City during the ABF Directors' December meeting.

Mr. Ken Moskowitz, the U.S. Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs, and Ms. Sherry Keneson–Hall, the Cultural Affairs Officer, visited ARCS and had a friendly discussion with the staff and the fellows.

Mr. Lenko Lenkov, Program Director of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, visited ARCS and talked about joint projects with Dr. Theodossiev and Dr. Emil Nankov, ARCS Archaeology Program Officer.

Dr. Theodossiev was made Corresponding Member of the Archaeological Institute of America in recognition of his scholarship and high attainments in the field of archaeology.

Dr. Nankov gave an invited lecture on the painted Thracian tomb at Alexandrovo at the New Bulgarian University.

**February-March:** Professor Clinton, Dr. Theodossiev, and Dr. Nora Dimitrova (Co-Founder and Trustee of ARCS) attended an introductory reception at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia hosted by H.E. Mr. James B. Warlick, the U.S. Ambassador in Bulgaria.

Dr. Randall Baker, Professor Emeritus at Indiana University and Distinguished Professor at New Bulgarian University, visited ARCS and met with Professor Clinton and Dr. Theodossiev.

Dr. Theodossiev attended a public lecture 'New Partnership: Common Interests, Shared Values' given by H.E. Mr. James B. Warlick, the U.S. Ambassador in Bulgaria and organized by the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria.

Mr. Marshall Lee Miller, a Director of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, met with Professor Clinton, Dr. Dimitrova, Dr. Theodossiev, Dr. Nankov, and the ARCS fellows. They discussed the progress of the archaeological projects and academic programs supported by the ABF.

Professor Clinton, Dr. Nankov and the ARCS fellows attended the opening of the exhibition 'Bulgarian Archaeology 2009' at the National Institute of Archaeology and Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NIAM-BAS) and met with Bulgarian archaeologists. Later Dr. Nankov and ARCS fellows Shannon Martino and Jeremy Ott attended the open sessions of the Annual Archaeological Excavation Reports at NIAM-BAS.

H.E. Mr. James B. Warlick, the U.S. Ambassador in Bulgaria, Mr. Ken Moskowitz, the Counselor for Public Affairs, and Ms. Sherry Keneson–Hall, the Cultural Affairs Officer, kindly received Professor Clinton and Dr. Dimitrova at the U.S. Embassy and talked about the activities of ARCS.

Professor Clinton and Dr. Nankov met with Dr. Todor Chobanov, Deputy Minister of Culture, to discuss the archaeological projects supported by ARCS and future collaboration.

Dr. Nankov, Mrs. Valeria Bineva, and ARCS fellow Jeremy Ott visited the Kyustendil Historical Museum. Dr. Nankov and Mr. Valentin Debochichki, the Museum Director, discussed projects of common interest. Mr. Doychin Grozdanov and Ms. Galina Dyankova from the Museum gave a tour of the Roman city of Pautalia.

**April-May:** Dr. Emil Nankov and Mrs. Valeria Bineva attended a presentation of the French-Bulgarian Archaeological Excavations at the French Institute at Sofia, by invitation of Dr. Jean-Luc Guadelli and Mr. Hubert Guicharrousse, attaché of the Academic and Scientific Collaboration at the French Embassy in Bulgaria.

Mr. Marshall Lee Miller, a Director of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, had another productive meeting with Dr. Theodossiev and Dr. Nankov, dedicated to the progress of ABF and ARCS joint initiatives.

Professor Lynn Roller from the University of California at Davis and ARCS Trustee, visited Sofia and resided at the Center. She met with the ARCS staff and fellows and gave a lecture at the New Bulgarian University.

ARCS Trustees Professor Julia Stefanova, Executive Director of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission, Professor Lynn Roller from the University of California at Davis, and Dr. Theodossiev discussed opportunities for collaboration between the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission and ARCS.

During a celebration of the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, by invitation of H.E. Mr. Karel van Kesteren, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bulgaria, Dr. Theodossiev had an opportunity to talk about the mission and activities of ARCS.

Ms. Melanie Kirkpatrick, a Director of the America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF) and a renowned Wall Street Journal editor; Mr. Jack David, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense; Mr. Lenko Lenkov, a Program Director of the ABF; and Ms. Bojana Kourteva, Chief Financial Officer of the ABF, visited ARCS and met with ARCS staff and fellows and the Bulgarian doctoral students who received ABF grants to study in Athens and Istanbul. Mr. Alexiev and his ensemble 'Balkan Voices' performed a lively concert of Bulgarian, Greek and Turkish folk music.

At a dinner hosted by Mr. Carl H. Pforzheimer III, a Co-Chairman of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, Dr. Theodossiev, Mrs. Galina Hristova, and Mr. Marshall Lee Miller took part in a discussion of the Bulgarian educational system and academic research.

Dr. Nankov and ARCS fellow Jeremy Ott attended the 49<sup>th</sup> National Archaeological Conference organized by NIAM-BAS in Nesebar. Dr. Nankov informed Bulgarian archaeologists of various

opportunities for collaboration within the programs supported by the ABF.

Dr. Theodossiev discussed ARCS and its mission during the Commemorative Conference 'The U.S. – EU Transatlantic Partnership – Bulgaria's Role' on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria. The event was attended by Ambassador James Pardew, ARCS Trustee, and many other dignitaries.

Professor Denver Graninger, our new Director, visited Sofia and met with Dr. Nankov and ARCS fellow Jeremy Ott. They talked about the ARCS academic program and the archaeological projects supported by the ABF. He had a productive discussion with Mr. Frank L. Bauer, President of the America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF), Mr. Marshall Lee Miller, a Director of ABF, and Professor Philip Dimitrov from the American University in Bulgaria, Trustee of ARCS and former Prime Minister of Bulgaria and Ambassador of Bulgaria to the United States.

**June:** Professor Graninger and his wife Tanya Spicer visited Professor Kevin Clinton and Dr. Nora Dimitrova in Virginia to discuss the major priorities and challenges in managing ARCS. During the same visit, Professor Graninger and his wife received precious advice and cordial encouragement from Mr. James Pardew, former U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria and Trustee of ARCS, and his wife Mrs. Kathy Hoffman Pardew. Later Professor Graninger met with ABF Directors Carl Pforzheimer, Gary McDougal, and Joe Borgatti in New York City.

On June 30<sup>th</sup> our contract with Associate Academic Director Nikola Theodossiev expired. We are deeply grateful for his enthusiastic and dedicated help during the establishment of ARCS.

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