

Newsletter

US Embassy in Brasil
brasilia.usembassy.gov

USG Alumni Community
alumni.state.gov

Brazilian Alumni Community
alumni.state.gov/brazilian-alumni-community



Features

Small grants for Alumni in Brazil

Profile:

Roberto Amorim

Fulbright photo exhibit tours Brazil

US Elections observation tour

Dear Alumni,

Welcome to this first edition of our new Brazilian alumni newsletter! The Embassy is thrilled to launch this newsletter along with a new Brazilian Community on the State Alumni website (www.alumni.state.gov) for all of you who have come to know the US through the many exchange programs we have created and made successful through your efforts, such as Fulbright, the International Visitor Leadership Program, Humphrey, Study of the USA Institutes, Youth Ambassadors, and others.

The community will be made more meaningful through your active participation, so we encourage you to register on the State alumni site and participate in the community, which will have information on alumni events, research projects, grant opportunities, job announcements, and much more, in both English and Portuguese. Please also help us to reach all of you — if you know of other alumni who are not receiving this newsletter, please have them contact us with their e-mail or mailing address.

I am also very excited to announce a new small grants competition for alumni made possible through a grant from the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, as well as through the generosity of Brazil's Fulbright Commission. This program will provide up to six grants of \$5,000 USD each for alumni to implement projects in the areas of (1) Promotion of American Studies, English Language Teaching and/or Exchanges; (2) Environmental Protection; and (3) Economic Development and/or Social Justice. I strongly encourage you to submit proposals — more information about how to submit a proposal is included in this newsletter.

Of the many great people my wife Barbara and I have met in Brazil, one who stood out most was Ruth Cardoso. As you all know,

we lost one of our greatest Brazilian Fulbright alumni with the passing of the former First Lady. She had done so much for the people of Brazil by promoting volunteerism and through her support of social and educational programs. Just last December she spoke about poverty alleviation and community development programs carried out by her NGO Comunidade Solidária at one of our Corporate Social Responsibility/+Unidos Meetings held at the American Chamber of Commerce in São Paulo. In recognition of all Ruth Cardoso has done for Brazil, we are working with various partners to establish a scholarship in her honor.



The former First Lady Ruth Correa Cardoso and Ambassador Clifford Sobel.

Next year we are planning to hold a Reunion conference for all alumni in Brazil. Look to the Brazilian Community on the State Alumni site for opportunities to provide ideas for the reunion — where and when to hold it, themes to address, speakers to invite, etc

Please also stay in touch through our Public Affairs section, which is always looking for ways to better serve our great alumni. I look forward to hearing your ideas because I believe your experience and continued involvement can help us seize new opportunities to build bridges between the United States and Brazil.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Clifford Sobel

Brazil Alumni Small Grants Announcement

Small grant opportunity for alumni of US Government-sponsored exchange programs

The US Embassy in Brasilia and the Fulbright Commission in Brazil announce a small grant competition open to all Alumni of US Government-sponsored Exchange Programs. Alumni are invited to submit proposals for grants in the following areas: (1) Promotion of American Studies/English Teaching and/or Exchanges with the US; (2) Environmental Protection (3) Economic Development/Social Justice. A maximum of six grants of up to \$5,000, including up to three for all alumni and up to three for Fulbright alumni, will be awarded in these categories, preferably with at least one grant being awarded in each category, as judged by officials of the U.S. Embassy/Consulates in Brazil and officials of the Fulbright Commission.

When are Proposals Due? Proposals are due September 29, 2008 to the US Embassy in Brasilia.

When will grant decisions be made? Decisions will be made and grants awarded in October, 2008.

How long is the grant period? October, 2008 – August, 2009, or a shorter period if the project can be completed earlier than August, 2009.

What must be included in the proposal? Successful proposals will

bring together at least 2 (and preferably more) alumni of US Government-funded exchange programs to work on a project together in one of the 3 project areas. At least one of the alumni involved in the project must have participated in a State Department/Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs-sponsored exchange program, though alumni of exchange programs sponsored by USAID and other US Government (non- STATE/ECA) departments and agencies are also welcome to participate.

Projects must: demonstrate how participating alumni will use their exchange experience to benefit others in Brazil; explain how the project will enhance alumni professional development; show how the project will be evaluated by project participants; and demonstrate sustainability once funding for the project ends. Proposals for individual research projects cannot be funded. Project results must be posted to the State Alumni website in the Brazilian Alumni Community (Comunidade de Intercambistas Brasileiros) section. (<https://alumni.state.gov>) All alumni involved in the project, if they have not already, must register on the State Alumni website. Alumni are encouraged to review successful alumni projects in the Alumni News section of the State Alumni website. Project budgets must include cost-

sharing and may only include allowable costs. Proposals will include both narrative text and a detailed budget.

How do I apply? To receive the proposal application form, please send an e-mail to alumnigrants@embaixada-americana.org.br. Questions about the application process may also be submitted to this email address. Proposal forms are also available for download at <http://brasilia.usembassy.gov>.



USA Fair Feira dos EUA

The U.S. Embassy in Brasilia will hold a three-day "USA Fair" at the Iguatemi Shopping Center in Belém September 18-20, 2008. The fair will provide information on how to study in the U.S., exchange programs, doing business with the U.S., how to apply for a visa, and much more. Presentations will be given on these topics and representatives of the Embassy and partner organizations will be available to answer questions and provide information. Books and other materials with information on U.S. society, government, economy, culture, etc., will also be available to the public free of charge.

If you live in or near Belém and would like to participate in the USA Fair, please email alumnigrants@embaixada-americana.org.br.

Profile:

Fulbrighter uses debates to teach English language skills

Fulbright Alumnus Roberto Amorim uses debates in his classroom as an English language learning tool. According to him, preparing for and participating in debates enhances students' English language learning.

"Plenty of incidental learning can be observed as participants research to prepare for the debate (reading and vocabulary development), discuss the issues among their team members (critical reasoning and speaking practice), prepare the arguments for the actual presentation (writing and organization of arguments), and participation in the actual debate (practice in speaking a foreign language publicly), says Amorim. He has been organizing classroom debates since 2006 when he started teaching English at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. "The results have always been more than rewarding," he notes.

Recently Amorim organized a debate activity for participants in an English Immersion Week held at the Instituto Cultural Brasil Estados Unidos (ICBEU) in Belo Horizonte for semi-finalists of the Youth Ambassador Exchange Program. These outstanding public high school students made the semi-finalist round but were not ultimately chosen to go to the US through the Youth Ambassador program. In recognition of their outstanding achievements, however, the Embassy invited semi-finalists to take part in English Immersion weeks at various Bi-National Centers throughout Brazil. "The participants [in the English Immersion debate activity] got really engaged in the process, did surprisingly thorough research given the little time available, and performed well during the actual debate," he said.

Amorim has taught English at ICBEU-BH since 1992, where he also previously served as the course coordinator. He also teaches in-company Business English courses.

Through a Fulbright grant, Amorim received a Master's in Applied Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2005. His Master's thesis, entitled, "An Investigation of Teachers' Reactions to an In-service Teacher Education Program Based on Reflection and Action Research," won the Katherine O. Aston Award for Outstanding Master's Thesis in 2004/2005 by the Division of English as an International Language of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and was chosen as a required reading for a linguistics course offered by Professor Laura Hahn beginning in 2006.



Top: Former Fulbrighter Roberto Amorim helps participants in the English Immersion Week at the Bi-National Center in Belo Horizonte prepare for a debate.



Bottom: Amorim's website, a tool to assist his students.

"Being a Fulbrighter has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. For the chance to do my Master's in the United States, for the outstanding support I had while I was there, for the learning opportunities I had while taking the course, for the experiences I shared with other Fulbrighters from different parts of the world, and for the opportunities I still have to share and contribute, such as the two years I taught at UFMG and the participation in programs such as the English Immersion Program for Youth Ambassador semi-finalists," says Amorim.

Born in Espirito Santo, he has lived in Belo Horizonte most of his life. Amorim is married to a teacher and has two children. In addition to teaching English, he enjoys photography and web design. "My website,

www.robortoamorim.com, is one of the tools I use to help my students. It has exclusively built pages for all levels with plenty of content to assist their learning," he says. "As a teacher, my biggest ambition is to make my students independent learners of English."

Note:

In every issue of this newsletter we will profile an exchange program alumnus. If you would like to be profiled or if you would like to suggest someone to be profiled, please send an email to alumnigrants@embaixada-americana.org.br

Fulbright 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibit Tours Brazil

To celebrate 50 years of the existence of the Fulbright Commission in Brazil, the U.S. Embassy and the Fulbright Commission created a photo exhibit entitled "Visual Impressions" which is currently touring Brazil. The exhibit consists of 126 photographs that highlight the close historical and cultural ties between the United States and Brazil.

Divided into six sections — Heritage, Politics, Culture, Citizenship, Sports and the Environment — the exhibit compares American and Brazilian published photographic images from national magazines and newspapers. The photos are drawn

"The anniversary of the Fulbright program in Brazil provides a useful moment to reflect on the shared interests and challenges our two nations face."

Ambassador Clifford M. Sobel

from the archives of *Folha de São Paulo*, *O Estado de São Paulo*, *O Globo*, *Jornal do Brasil*, *Última Hora*, *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, with others coming from the Immigrant Museum, Moreira Sales Institution, Magnum Photos, NASA, the National Archives, Reuters and the Associated Press. It took curator João Kulcsár one year and eight months to select appropriate photos that demonstrate the closeness and similarities between the American and Brazilian people. A number of the images on display have received international recognition, such as the Pulitzer Prize, Esso Prize or the World Press Photo Award.

The exhibit juxtaposes images in interesting and thought-provoking ways, as with a set of photos contrasting the resignations of Presidents Nixon and Collor and another set inviting comparisons between the U.S. and Brazilian social justice movements. Other images depict pivotal moments in history and important achievements, such as the successes of Brazil's five-time World Champion soccer team, the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the departure of Brazilian President Goulart after the military

takeover of 1964. Cultural similarities, such as those between Carnival in Brazil and Mardi Gras in New Orleans, are also a prominent part of the exhibit.



Top: Opening poster of the exhibit. Bottom: João Kulcsár, curator of the Fulbright 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibit, gives a tour to guests at the exhibit opening at the Binational Center in Manaus.



takeover of 1964. Cultural similarities, such as those between Carnival in Brazil and Mardi Gras in New Orleans, are also a prominent part of the exhibit.

Please see the Calendar section of the newsletter for a list of upcoming Fulbright 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibits openings.

Calendar of Events

Register on the State Alumni Website today!

Are you registered on the State Alumni Website (<https://alumni.state.gov>)? If not, you are missing valuable information about grant and job opportunities, as well as news about fellow alumni and access to useful research tools. You don't have to speak/read English to use this site! A new Brazilian Alumni Community, with content in both English and Portuguese, has recently been created where you can post information, connect with other alumni, and learn about upcoming events and career-enhancing opportunities. Registration takes just a few minutes – do it today!

Have you visited www.America.gov?

This Department of State sponsored site provides information about US foreign policy, politics, economy, and society through news articles, downloadable publications, webchats, videos and other formats. Available in English, Spanish, French and other languages, the site also has many publications, particularly E-journals, available in Portuguese. The site is great way to learn more about the US, practice your English, and if you are a teacher of English or American Studies, the site may be an especially good resource for you.

July 21 – Aug. 30, 2008	Fulbright 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibit, Instituto Cultural Brasil-Estados Unidos, Manaus
July 21 – Aug. 30, 2008	Fulbright 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibit, ICBEU, Manaus
Aug. 1 -24, 2008	Fulbright Photo Exhibit, Usina de Arte, Rio Branco
Aug. 7 – Sept. 14, 2008	Fulbright Exhibit, Museu Histórico de Alcântara
August 30, 2008	Exchanges Fair organized by Casa Thomas Jefferson, Hotel Nacional, Brasília
September 8, 2008	EducationUSA Fair, Marriott Hotel, Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro
September 14, 2008	Deadline for Applications for Elections Exchange Program
Sept. 17 - Oct. 14, 2008	Fulbright Photo Exhibit, Museu da República, Rio de Janeiro
September 18-20, 2008	USA Fair, Iguatemi Shopping Mall, Belém
Sept. 25 - Oct. 25, 2008	Fulbright Photo Exhibit, Museu Zoroastro Artiaga, Goiânia
September 26, 2008	Deadline for Submission of items for October Alumni Newsletter
September 29, 2008	Deadline for Alumni Small Grants Submission
Sept. 30 – Oct. 22, 2008	Fulbright Photo Exhibit, Projetos de Manutenção de Preservação do Patrimônio Histórico, Porto Velho

Elections Exchange Program for Brazilian undergraduate students

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Brazil is pleased to announce an opportunity for 20 undergraduate students of political science, international relations and journalism to observe the 2008 Presidential Elections in the US. The deadline for applications is Sunday, September 14, 2008 and can be done online on our website: www.usembassyprograms.org.br.

The program will include:

- Special seminars for the participants
- Access to numerous undergraduate political science courses
- Personal contact with key policy makers and a variety of citizens during site visits
- A debate of the issues moderated by political science faculty
- A special election symposium and an election night results event, and



The 2000 Republican Convention in Philadelphia. (Photo: Ted S. Warren, AP Images)

- A three-day educational tour of Washington, D.C.

This program will take place at the North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina for a group of 20 Brazilian students of the courses mentioned above. The selected students will travel to the US on the 25th of October and will return to Brazil on the 8th of November.

The first week of the program will focus on in-class academic components with specialized lectures, a choice of different political science courses in which the program participants can participate, and thought-provoking site visits. In the second week, the students will shift their focus to learning by participation, visiting two different voting stations (in different ethnic neighborhoods), interacting and viewing the televised results with politically active students on campus, and traveling to Washington D.C. for cultural visits after the elections.

Internet bloggers update their convention blogs at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, 2004. (Photo: Mario Tama/Getty Images)



Looking for Articles and Announcements for the next Newsletter

If you would like to submit a short article, announcement of an event, job or grant opportunity, or if you would like to be profiled or suggest an alumnus to be profiled in this newsletter, please send an email to: alumnigrants@embaixada-americana.org.br. The deadline for submission for the next newsletter, which will be printed in October, is September 26, 2008.