

# Newsletter

**US Embassy in Brasil**  
brasilia.usembassy.gov

**USG Alumni Community**  
alumni.state.gov

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



**Features**

Lucky observers

**Profile:**  
Adriano Rabelo

To be a Student Leader: a lifetime experience

Youth Ambassadors in Action

## Lucky Observers

The initial reaction seemed to be almost unanimous: disbelief. "I thought I had misread the e-mail," one of them said. "This isn't possible; I must have gotten in through the quota system," was what the other one said. At that moment, 20 students all over Brazil wondered the same thing: "Is it actually possible that I was chosen to participate in a program like this?!"

The "U.S. Elections 2008" offered 20 university students from journalism, political science and international relations courses from all over Brazil a unique opportunity: to travel to the United States to observe, for 15 days, the elections that would define the future of that country and, some dare to say, of the world.

In São Paulo, where the 20 amazed students met with each other for the first time, the mixture of accents and slang made me understand the greatness of what I was about to experience. The 20 young people who were there, the same ones who could hardly believe that they had been chosen, came together in a way that they could hardly imagine until then. There, the beginning of our journey towards understanding the American electoral system started and, without our realizing it, a trip that would create friendships and deep feelings that will unite us forever. We prepared ourselves to experience world history without realizing that, in this way, we would be writing our own.

As soon as we arrived in Raleigh, North Carolina, we were immersed in a world that we only knew through films: the Ferris wheel, the rich-but-not-so-healthy food, and the attractions that varied from the most bizarre to the most fun. We were at the huge North Carolina State Fair, an experience that many of us, observers that we were, faced in an anthropological way.

The busy days in Raleigh passed by with activities such as lectures, classes, special visits, and meetings with incredible people with lots of smiles. It was while still in the capital of North Carolina that the most exciting moment of the trip took place: Barack Obama announced that he would be in the



Carol, one of the program participants, during a rally with Barack Obama in North Carolina.

city. The dear and patient organizers, David McNeil and Michael Bustle, already knew: Those untiring Brazilians would wake up early in the morning if it were necessary to attend Obama's speech.

And there we were the following cold morning, in the huge line of hope at the entrance to the place where the Illinois senator would speak. It was while still in line that we were able to understand, more and more, the true

*Continues on page 4*

## To Be a Student Leader: a Lifetime Experience

**K**noxville, Tennessee. Home for me and 17 Brazilian university students for 5 weeks in 2008. We were selected to participate in the Study of the US Institute for Student Leaders program. We were in the United States to get to know a little of North American history, culture and values, as well as to develop our leadership skills. More than this, we had the opportunity of experiencing the day-to-day life of a mid-sized city and of the University of Tennessee. In addition to our routine activities, we went to the CNN headquarters in Atlanta, we visited museums and historic places, and we associated with students and residents with whom we exchanged information and experiences.

After a brief meeting in Washington, D.C., with participants from other Latin American countries, our Student Leaders group returned home with unforgettable experiences and plans to get much of what we learned out there off the drawing board.

**T**he first step was to design the Student Leaders Network (SLN), an association which will enable a reunion of participants from different editions of the program with other young leaders and experts in diverse areas of knowledge. At the first SLN Conference in October, we went to Brasília and we met with two professors from the University of Brasília (UnB) who shared their professional experiences and reported the challenges of exercising leadership in the academic field as well as in the job market.



Photo of the 17 Brazilian student leaders in the United States.

During the conference, we defined our association's goals and plans of action. Among the proposals are assistance to candidates and future participants of the program and incentives for the development of leadership skills among young Brazilians, in addition to helping to publicize future Study of the US Institute programs.

Already putting into practice the ideas debated in Brasília, we are going to São Paulo in January to participate in the pre departure orientation of the next Student Leaders group. Besides sharing our experiences, we want to help the next participants to clear up any doubts, and to remember a little how that first moment was for all of us. This meeting will certainly help the two groups to integrate and allow the work of establishing the SLN to be finalized.

**T**he most interesting thing is that participation in the program is not restricted to the days in North American territory. It goes beyond borders and extends through time. The experience is unique and definitely expands the horizon of each one of us. Now, together, we want to share and multiply what we have learned because, as the fourth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

By Mário Braga  
Student Leader 2008 e graduando em  
Comunicação Social pela UFJF  
mario\_bmhv@hotmail.com

## Profile: Fulbright Experience Expands Horizons for Adriano Rabelo

For literary theory professor Adriano Rabelo, his Fulbright exchange experience at the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 2001 and 2002 included both cold weather and warm friendships. "Sometimes the long and extremely cold season was a problem for someone born and raised in the tropics of Brazil," Rabelo notes. "But it was exciting to walk on frozen lakes and go to the university when it was snowing. And I made lots of friends in the States with whom I still have contact. And I even played soccer there."

Rabelo, who lives in Sao Paulo, credits his exchange experience with helping him to obtain his current position as a professor at the Department of Literary Theory at the University of Campinas. He conducted doctoral research at the University of Wisconsin on Brazilian literature and says that the highlight of his experience was "a better comprehension of the United States, as well as the American people and culture."

In the last year, Rabelo has published three books, including a translation into Portuguese of "The Iceman Cometh," a highly acclaimed play by American playwright Eugene

O'Neill, who was the first American playwright to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. He is currently working on a book entitled, "Brazil and the United States in Brazilian Travel and Immigration Literature." His research focus is on literary relations between Brazil and the United States.

Another book by Rabelo, "Legends and Myths of The Brazilian People" (Lendas e Mitos do Povo Brasileiro) includes legends and myths from the Brazilian popular tradition that Rabelo would recount to his three-year old son before going to bed. The book is dedicated to his son Arthur, who Rabelo says is "my favorite soccer and literature companion."

### Note:

In every issue of this newsletter we will profile an exchange program alumna. 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](mailto:alumnigrants@embaixada-americana.org.br)



Adriano Rabelo is professor of Literary Theory at the University of Campinas.

## New Alumni Coordinator Hired



With the objective of strengthening activities with our alumni and creating new partnerships with the private sector, a new person joined our team in December of 2008. Anette Trompeter, who is a graduate of the University of São Paulo in Business Administration, with a post-graduate degree in

International Negotiation, has more than 20 years of diverse experience at such companies as Coca-Cola, Subway, ABF – the Brazilian Franchising Association, IBM, and others.

Anette will serve as the Alumni and Private Sector Outreach Coordinator of all exchange programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and will be based at the Fulbright Commission in Sao Paulo. She can be reached at:

Anette Trompeter, Alumni & Private Sector Outreach Coordinator  
[anette@fulbright.org.br](mailto:anette@fulbright.org.br)  
 Rua Brasiliense, 65 - 2nd Floor - Suite 5  
 São Paulo, SP - 04729-110  
 Phone: +55.11.2806-3738  
 Mobile: +55.11.8182-5545

## From the State Alumni Website...

*FulbrightWeb.org Becomes the Fulbright Community on State Alumni!*

We are pleased to announce the transition from FulbrightWeb.org to a new Fulbright Community on State Alumni. The community will bring together current Fulbright program grantees and Fulbright alumni, and will serve as the program's professional support network for the nearly 300,000 Fulbright alumni worldwide. All Fulbrighters past and present are invited to register for State Alumni and may go to <http://exchanges.state.gov> or <https://alumni.state.gov> to do so.

FulbrightMail.org email accounts, replacing existing FulbrightWeb.org email accounts, will also be available to Fulbrighters registered for the State Alumni website. Alumni who previously had FulbrightWeb accounts and current State Alumni members should have been notified of their new address already. Questions may be sent to [webmaster@alumni.state.gov](mailto:webmaster@alumni.state.gov). Use of FulbrightWeb and FulbrightWeb.org email accounts has been extended until December 31, 2008.

# Lucky observers

(continuation of cover story)

magnitude of what was about to take place in that country over the following days. The change, so much spoken of in the campaign, was evident on the face of each one of the volunteers that walked along happily encouraging people to vote and asking for help for the campaign's homestretch. They were blacks and whites, young and old, all united under an ideal: to elect the man whom we were ready to hear.

To hear Barack Obama speak was, certainly, a special experience for all of us. It was the proof that we needed to believe that our choice was not in vain. We were there, observing that historic moment, because we

**"I'm so happy that you have had the opportunity to be here and experience this moment. We have just made history, you all are seeing History in the making".**

had within us the undeniable will to share with the world what we were experiencing. The "lucky observers" (the nickname that

we gave ourselves at the beginning of the trip) were shown to have, once again, some luck.

The Republican politicians were also present: Senator Elizabeth Dole and the "star" of Alaska, Sarah Palin, were in Raleigh during our stay. We were in the middle of the action. A typical Republican state during presidential elections, North Carolina showed itself to be, in 2008, a card-carrying Democrat. And we heard, we spoke and, above all, we observed attentively. Something was about to happen...

November 4, 2008: twenty Brazilian students watch Barack Obama's triumph. The first black president of the United States of America is elected. The world surrenders to a young and charismatic politician. That night, I received a moving phone call in my room: a professor from the university where we attended lectures was crying on the other end of the line. "I'm so happy that you have had the opportunity to be here and experience this moment. We have just made history, you all are seeing History in the making," she said.

In Washington, with all of its charm, its museums and its jazz, we felt that our journey was coming to an end. And at the farewell, tears and smiles mixed



Brazilian observers in two moments of their program in the United States.



to form an indescribable confusion of feelings. We had been 20 but we became, in those 15 days, one.

There was a feeling of unity that manifested itself in the week after the end of the program. Only we know what happened and only we will be able to understand, years from now, what this trip really meant. But the will to share with all each moment of that experience makes us remember the reason why we had been chosen.

And the mixture of accents which, at the end of those two weeks became more homogeneous as one took on the manner of speech of the other, showed that in 15 days, 20 students experienced a piece of world history but, above all, of their own personal history that will be a landmark experience forever.

Gabriele Beraldo Jimenez

## 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](http://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 a 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.

January 27 to March 1st, 2009	Photo exhibit " Sacred Legacy" by Edward S. Curtis, about native American culture, Caixa Cultural, Curitiba
March 13 to April 26, 2009	Photo Exhibits "Sacred Legacy," by Edward S. Curtis, and "Yanomami Portraits", by Claudia Andujar, Caixa Cultural, São Paulo
as of March 27, 2009	Fulbright Photo Exhibit, Patrimônio Histórico, Palmas
as of March 31, 2009	Fulbright Photo Exhibit, Galeria de Arte da ABA, Recife
as of April 6, 2009	Fulbright Photo Exhibit, PP Histórico, Porto Velho
as of April 14, 2009	Fulbright Photo Exhibit, CBP, Belém
as of April 14, 2009	Fulbright Photo Exhibit, Memorial do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre
May 4 to June 28, 2009	Edward S. Curtis and Claudia Andujar photo exhibits, Caixa Cultural, Rio de Janeiro
July 7 to August 9, 2009	Edward S. Curtis and Claudia Andujar photo exhibits, Caixa Cultural, Salvador



**Special Olympics**

### 2009 Eunice Kennedy Shriver Fellowship Program

Funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Special Olympics International, the EKS Fellowship Program aims to develop leadership through the creation of cross-sector bonds among professionals working in the field of intellectual disability in developing countries. Over the course of approximately three months, Fellows will receive customized training and practical experiences at Special Olympics International HQ in Washington, D.C. and at U.S. Special Olympics State Programs.

For more information, visit the site: <http://www.specialolympics.org/EKSfellowship/>

## Youth Ambassadors in Action

A month ago, during a chat of the YAAA — Youth Ambassadors Alumni Association — a program was launched to assist the victims of the floods in Santa Catarina. Heliene Araújo Maciel, 2005 Youth Ambassador from Manaus, AM, had the idea that was embraced by every Youth Ambassador (YA) in the chatroom. The idea was to join the existing campaign — SOS Santa Catarina — and collect donations to help the flood victims. “We wanted to expand it to other states that were also being affected by floods; however, the most viable option was to focus on Santa Catarina, since collection stations had already been established throughout Brazil,” explained Airton Martins, 2007 YA of Cachoeirinha, RS.

In Pará, that idea was taken even further. Everaldo



decided to help us and joined the campaign involving about 300 employees of Hotel Hilton Belém” says Marina. In a week, they managed to collect more than 700 donations including toys, clothes, backpacks and shoes. “The best of it is to know that we could help somehow and that, in fact, is our role as citizens,” explains Everaldo. “It is proof that it only takes willpower and attitude to achieve many things in life and that was only an example, he concludes.

From left to right: Marina Paula YA08, Everaldo Alves YA09 and Civil Defense personnel.



From left to right: Marina Paula YA08, Ana Alice Nunes HR Manager of Hotel Hilton Belém, Everaldo Alves YA09, Benedita Diniz – HR Assistant – and Civil Defense personnel when the collected donations were delivered.

Alves, 2009 YA, and Marina Paula Rolim, YA 2008, established the idea at their workplace: “While we were talking trying to find a way to mobilize and collect those donations, the manager of my department (HR)

### Marina Paula Carreira Rolim

The Youth Ambassadors Alumni Association is committed to the development of communities and their members through the dynamic promotion of cultural and educational programs. The Association aims to spread volunteer work and to cooperate with volunteers as a tool for sustainable development that will help people and their communities to develop independently and successfully.

### 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](mailto:alumnigrants@embaixada-americana.org.br). The deadline for submission for the next newsletter, which will be printed in April, is March 23, 2009.