

Fostering International Study in
Brazil—and Elsewhere:
Using the Private College
Denominational Connection

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Methodist Connections

- ▶ Missionaries from the Methodist church were in Brazil starting with the end of the USA Civil War.
- ▶ Our former Dean's grandfather, uncle, and father were well-known Methodist missionaries in Brazil.
- ▶ His family helped create and was still a part of a strong and important church-related private educational system in Brazil that allowed us to make this connection.

Initial Connections

- ▶ Administrators and teachers from the Methodist schools came to Emory & Henry for summer study.
- ▶ Students from these schools followed for five years after this.
- ▶ We selected and sent three of our students there to teach and be representatives of the United States and native English language users. We did this for five years.

Successful Program, But . . .

Worked with schools in Lins, UNIMEP University, and the University of Sao Paulo.

Program ended due to lack of support when Dean with Brazil connection resigned.

- ▶ Success for Several Years

- ▶ Bump in the Road

REBIRTH

- ▶ Dr. Marvin Reynolds, alumnus and donor, was a benefactor to the dental school in Lins, and he wanted us to reconnect with schools there.
- ▶ We in the Neff Center, along with our former Dean, now a professor of religion, also wanted to reestablish our program in Brazil.
- ▶ Our new President and new Dean supported this effort.

New Chapter in Program

- ▶ We developed a new selection process.
- ▶ We sent two students the first year, one from religion and one from psychology.
- ▶ We sent four last year, including one of our M.A. graduates in Reading as a supervisor. The other three were teacher preparation students.

Excerpts from Student Testimonials

- ▶ “I was able to spend time with an amazing host family in Brazil, and the culture was apparent in the household. The family was willing to do anything at all to help me be more comfortable and at home. This chance to see the Brazilian culture allowed me to see how Americans are not as warm to outsiders, and helped me to realize how I want to be towards people from different cultures visiting or living in the USA”

• *Shannon Harris is currently doing her student teaching*

Excerpts from Student Testimonials

- ▶ “Not knowing Portuguese, I thought that communication would be impossible. However, I learned that people will find a way to tell you what they mean even if they have to go about it in a new way. The students in my classroom were amazing.”

- *Tim Kilbourne graduated from Emory & Henry in May 2008.*

Excerpts from Student Testimonials

- ▶ “I think we that we could learn a lot form their culture and become more thoughtful and understanding individuals. I honestly felt like I had grown more in the short period of time I was away than I had in all my years as a college student. The experience just changes you.”

- *Summer West will receive her M.Ed. from Emory & Henry in December 2008*

Brazil Travelers 2007 and 2008



2008 Update

- ▶ We sent two this year, 2008
- ▶ Dr. Reynolds pays for the plane tickets, and the Neff Center assists if we have the budget. Room and Board is provided by the schools in Lins, so other than personal, incidental expenses, this experience costs the students nothing.
- ▶ In-country travel to places like Rio and Igausu are provided by the hosts if possible.

**Sarah Moore--English Major
Teacher Preparation**



**Jason Hibbitts--English Major
Creative Writing**



Problems

- ▶ A different school-year schedule causes problems regarding *when* we send students.
- ▶ Airport transfers can be tricky for non-native speakers. Also, at this point, you cannot purchase electronic tickets for Brazil in-country flights in the United States, so this can cause problems.
- ▶ Visas for Brazil are a challenge.

Obtaining Temporary Visas for Brazil

- Valid Signed Passport
- Visa Application Form
- Two passport size photos
- Copy of Itinerary—accompanying plane ticket printout is helpful here
- Letters from both schools, sending and receiving, describing the nature of the exchange and the schools responsibility for the students.
- Security clearance check—Our local sheriff's department takes care of this for us
- Bank statement from either the student or the parents of the students demonstrating that the individual going to Brazil have resources, i.e., that they are not indigent. Clarity of the schools' responsibilities for the students needs and welfare is helpful here.

*We use a company—
International Visa Service—
who does this for us since
there is a lot required*

Brazil Program Application Form

- ▶ Lins, Brazil: Summer Service/Teaching Application
 - ▶ Complete this form and return it to: Dr. Edgar H. Thompson (ehthomps@ehc.edu)
 - ▶ Room 333, McGlothlin-Street Hall
 - ▶ Name: _____ Date of Application: _____
 - ▶ Campus mailbox: _____ Campus e-mail: _____
 - ▶ Telephone: (dorm or local) _____ (cell) _____
 - ▶ Home mailing address: _____
 - ▶ Street _____
 - ▶ _____
 - ▶ City State Zip _____
 - ▶ Home phone if different from above: _____
 - ▶ Do you have a current passport? – Yes – No
 - ▶ Two References:
 - ▶ 1) _____
 - ▶ Name Phone number _____
 - ▶ _____
 - ▶ Postal mailing address (street, city, state, zip code) _____
 - ▶ _____
 - ▶ e-mail address _____
 - ▶ 2) _____
 - ▶ Name Phone number _____
 - ▶ _____
 - ▶ Postal mailing address (street, city, state, zip code) _____
 - ▶ _____
 - ▶ e-mail address _____
- In a short essay of no more than two pages (typed, double spaced) address the following questions: Why do you want to go? What do you expect to learn from the experience? What skills, education, training, experiences, and/or temperament can you bring to this experience that you feel will insure a successful experience for all involved?

Visa Service We Have Used

- ▶ International Visa Service
1519 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 300
Washington DC 20036
- ▶ 1-202-387-0300 phone
1-800-AAA-VISA phone
1-202-387-5650 fax
cs@ivsd.com