PORTUGUESE PROGRAM
NEWSLETTER

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Director’s Note

Dear Students, Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends of the Portuguese Program,

Welcome to our third edition to report on a year with many exciting academic and social activities. Both fall and spring were filled with speaker series, movie nights, a film festival, outreach activities, and of course, our traditional pizza lunch.

Some of the highlights of the fall, ‘18 and spring ‘19 were: our outstanding speakers, Dr. Ricardo Roque (University of Lisbon), Betty Milan (prize winning writer and play writer), Dr. Lauren Judy Reynolds (University of North Alabama), and Dr. Rosana Pinheiro Machado (Federal University of Santa Maria). The Portuguese Program launched its first intersession, service learning program to Cape Verde, Africa. It was an amazing experience for our students. We successfully hosted the cultural and Education attaché of the Brazilian embassy in Washington DC, and a group of students were invited to visit the embassy in late April. The Portuguese program tutors are officially working under the supervision of the Learning Den. Read more about each of these activities in the following pages.

As we move towards a new academic year, our goal is to have more Portuguese Program students participating on the study abroad programs – intersession and summer. There is no better way to practice and improve one’s language skills, and to develop cultural competency than going abroad. We also aim to have more students applying and enjoying the benefits of the FLAS awards and also of the Russell-Wood award.

The Portuguese program would like to have more students involved in the organization, promotion and management of its activities. Every year there are multiple activities undertaken by the Portuguese program, please consider volunteering to help with movie nights, being our newsletter editor, participating in the tutor program, helping to host the speaker series or being a semester student worker. Help make a difference in getting the word out concerning our Portuguese Program to maintain a robust presence on our campus. With your help, we will continue to excel in the next academic year.

In the meantime, and into the future, I encourage all of you to maintain and expand your involvement with the Portuguese Program. Find out more about this exciting year in the following pages.

Flávia Azeredo-Cerqueira
Associate Teaching Professor
Director, Portuguese Language Program
Visiting Cape Verde was like no other journey I have ever embarked on. Being an Africana studies minor, I was already interested in traveling to Cape Verde on this intersession trip for educational purposes. However, when arriving there, I had no idea what to expect. When it comes to African nations, it is more common to hear about Francophone and Anglophone countries, with the Lusophone nations being overlooked. On this intersession trip, I was able to see the great extent of Portuguese colonization and the effects of colonization in the country in the present day. By attending lectures at the University of Cape Verde in Praia, the nation's capital, I was educated on the evolution of its literature, geography, history, and economics from the past to the present. This contributed to the diversity in programming offered on the trip, including excursions throughout the country and service-learning.

Conducting service-learning in Tarrafal, a village on the island of Santiago, made the experience even more memorable. Working at Delta Cultura, a local NGO, allowed me to interact with natives and learn from their own experiences as citizens in the country. Volunteering side-by-side with members of the Tarrafal community gave me a first-hand experience in working with a NGO, while also allowing me to expand my perspective on the challenges faced by rural communities. I specifically learned more about the issues within the educational and economic system in Cape Verde from those who are affected by it daily. I saw how the problems affecting local communities are similar to those that affect many parts of the United States, and volunteering at Delta Cultura gave me more insight on how international NGOs address these issues compared to those in the U.S.

Being immersed in the culture and lifestyle in Cape Verde was an experience that shaped my perspective in many ways. Although I expected to face some hardships when it came to language and other things, I was overwhelmed with the openness and kindness of the people in the country. Traveling to Cape Verde gave me the opportunity to indulge in a culture other than my own, while also understanding more about the growth of the nation and its place in the world as a Lusophone country. This intersession trip was truly an experience I will never forget.

For more information & to apply, please visit: [http://grll.jhu.edu/portuguese/russell-wood-award/](http://grll.jhu.edu/portuguese/russell-wood-award/)
A Reflection on a Visit to the Brazilian Embassy

Daniel Parra, '19

The lecture of Brazilian cultural and education attaché, Mr. Bruno Rezende, provided me with an insight into the inner workings of a career in diplomacy. Although I do not plan on working in politics or diplomacy it was interesting to learn about the diverse responsibilities that diplomats have around the world. When I hear the word diplomat my mind immediately goes to ambassador and from there to deals, treaties, and trade negotiations. However, Mr. Rezende's path seemed to take him in a different direction. On top of the typical diplomatic work, Rezende's job entails a lot of cultural outreach work. He plays a major role in developing programs that promote awareness of Brazilian culture and education and therefore a deeper connection between the people of Brazil and the people of the United States. Getting an insight on the various ways that diplomats can work at their posts was eye opening because it highlights the importance of a diplomat not only as a politic liaison, but also as a cultural ambassador. Our visit to the embassy only reinforced this perception as we learned more about Mr. Rezende's role as a second secretary. The session at the embassy was set up as a discussion and students were able to dig deeper into the daily life of a diplomat. Both sessions, at Hopkins and at the Embassy, also included a mini-lecture on Brazilian history. This was interesting because it showed how the country's history is intimately tied to the value of the diplomacy that the country strives to embody. Overall, Mr. Rezende's lecture at Hopkins and our visit to the embassy gave students a broader perspective on Brazil, its history, and its place in the diplomatic arena.
I arrived in São Paulo on Saturday of Carnival, March 2. I landed in the international airport, miles away from the metropolitan city, and the way to my Airbnb could sum up the state of Brazilian politics nowadays. When I took my taxi, the sky was cloudy, but it started flooding as I got into the city. As someone who has lived in Mexico City and in Baltimore, I expected São Paulo to go into chaos. I was waiting for the streets to become rivers and motorists to lose their capacity to drive as if the rain would make them forget how to operate a car. All of that happened. This was, in my pessimist imagination, a perfect summary of Brazil. Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right politician whose rhetoric resembles Donald Trump’s, won the presidential elections in October and his mandate started on January 1. He promised to bring back order to Brazil—at whatever cost.

This was my first time in Brazil during Carnival. Perfect, I thought with a bit of irony, the year I come for Carnival Brazil is flooding. And thus, I was surprised by the hundreds of festive and dancing people refugeed from the rain in gas stations or under whichever version of a roof they could find. All of them were wearing extremely tiny shorts, all the glitter in the world, and incredibly creative costumes. Later I would learn they call these paraphernalia “fantasias.” I remember thinking, as the Mexican señor I might be becoming, that they would get sick. But I was also amazed, and a bit jealous, by the capacity of Brazilians to take the streets and party under the storm.

What I saw in the streets during Carnival was a masterclass on how to create and wear “fantasies” in whichever condition and context. I found people that know the political storm they are in: Bolsonaro has celebrated some policies of the military dictatorship and has changed the course of various governmental programs and political traditions. To face this reality, Brazilian have created fantasies about the effectiveness of their political institutions to check the president, fantasies about the openness of their society as a shield against prejudice, and fantasies about the organizational capacity of different groups to either help the president improve the conditions in the country or to stop him. I do not use the word fantasy as a way to discredit these ideas, quite the contrary. It might be too early to assess what is going on in Brazil, but Brazilians are looking into their closets and acquiring new fabrics to imagine possibilities, design responses either in favor or against the president, and confront the storm.
Remembering A. J. R. Russell-Wood

"I am a firm believer in how the study and writing and teaching of history can be highly enjoyable and fun"

- A. J. R. Russell-Wood

On the 9th anniversary of his death, we remember Dr. Russell-Wood and all of his contributions to studying Brazil and the broader Portuguese Empire. Born in Wales, Dr. Russell-Wood moved to Baltimore in 1971 to become a faculty member at the Department of History for Johns Hopkins University. Since then, Dr. Russell-Wood worked to become one of the world's most acclaimed historians of Brazilian and Portuguese studies. During his time at Hopkins, he served as the director of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences' Program in Latin American studies and as the chair of the Department of History. He was a prolific author, writing and editing ten books and over 80 scholarly articles. Dr. Russell-Wood's impact is still felt today. In 2013, the Russell-Wood Award was established to fund a study abroad or research experience in the Portuguese speaking world. Since its birth, the Russell-Wood award has helped fund over 20 study abroad opportunities for Hopkins students. His entire scholarly collection can be seen by these study abroad students as it was donated to the Federal University of Bahia in Brazil.

A.J.R Russell-Wood's Wife, Mrs. Hannelore Russell-Wood joined by Johns Hopkins University faculty and students who received the first Russell-Wood Award to fund their study abroad experiences in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

A.J.R Russel Wood Travel and Research Awards Ceremony (2014)

For more information & to apply, please visit: http://grll.jhu.edu/portuguese/russell-wood-award/
German and Romance Languages & Literatures

Volume 3, Spring 2019

**Speaker Series Portuguese Program, 2018-2019**

September 18th: Rites of Passage and Belongings in Jorge Amado’s *Os Capitães da Areia*, Dr. Lauren Judy Reynolds, University of North Alabama

October 16th: Diaspora, Psychoanalysis, and Literature in Brazil, Betty Milan, Author

October 29th: Historicizing Lusophone Racial Exceptionalism, Dr. Ricardo Roque, University of Lisbon

February 22nd: From Hope to Hate: The Rise of Conservative Subjectivity in Brazil, Dr. Rosana Pinheiro Machado, Federal University of Santa Maria

April 24th: Brazil: Education and Culture, Bruno Rezende, Embassy of Brazil, Washington DC

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**Want to improve your Portuguese but don’t know how? Here’s what we’ve found useful!**

1. **JOIN A TELE-TANDEM GROUP:** Tele-tandem will match you with a student partner in other countries through videoconferencing. This will push you to use authentic language and improve your intercultural communication. Go for it!

2. **Apps: Download MEMRISE:** Learn a new language with games, humorous chatbots and over 30000 native speaker videos. Memrise is an enjoyable and effective way to learn a language.

3. **WATCH, LISTEN, ATTEND:** There are so many ways to help expand your Portuguese vocabulary, your listening skills and your speaking abilities: attend local cultural events, listen to Brazilian music, watch Portuguese language shows and movies. Here is our suggestion for this edition – The mechanism - available to stream on Netflix. See page 8 for more suggestions!

4. **OS TUTORES:** The Portuguese program offers tutoring services which include undergraduate native speakers willing to help you better your skills. Each tutor has their designated time slot in which they make themselves available. Tutors can be reached through the Learning Den.

5. **TAKE ANOTHER COURSE!** The program offers many many courses which all help expand your language skills and cultural knowledge on Brazil. A list of courses can be found on page 10.

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**Speaker Series: Betty Milan**

Ananya Gupta, ’19

One of the most thought provoking events organized by the Portuguese Program was the speaker series with Betty Milan. I was particularly interested in her opinions regarding immigration and xenophobia. Given the current political climate in the United States, this felt like a very relevant topic of discussion! Betty shared insights based on her personal experiences with immigration. For instance, she discussed how immigrants tend to “undervalue” the country they arrive in and “overvalue” the country they left. In her opinion, this gives rise to a kind of xenophobia that originates from immigrants and is directed towards the natives. As an immigrant myself, I wonder how the toxic cycle of reciprocal xenophobia may be affecting political issues in the United States. In her talk, Betty also explored how this xenophobia may lead to complicated generational differences. For instance, her grandmother experienced this xenophobia, which made it harder for Betty to relate to her grandmother. Despite this internal conflict, she still managed to love her grandmother. Overall, I felt that Betty Milan’s talk provided a very relatable and nuanced account of xenophobia and what it means to be an immigrant.
Brazilian Movie Nights: Two Perspectives

The Viewer
Fatima '19

The movie nights were a great way to spend our Thursday evenings! There was always popcorn and Guaraná (Brazilian soda) which made it more enjoyable. The movies are a good balance between both educational and modern enough to keep us entertained. I would definitely recommend Brazilian Movie Nights to anyone who is interested in learning more about Brazilian culture or foreign film!

The Host
Lana Weidgenant, '21

I love organizing the Movie Nights with the Portuguese Program and BRASA (Brazilian Student Association). I’ve been able to watch so many wonderful Brazilian films through the program and it’s a great opportunity to unwind on a Thursday night while sharing Guaraná and popcorn with the Brazilian and Portuguese-learning communities! All of the movies have the Portuguese volume up and English subtitles so that everyone can be included regardless of their Portuguese expertise. We’ve been able to see a wide variety of movies through the program from classics such as City of God (Cidade de Deus) to newer and more modern films such as The Man of the Future (O Homem do Futuro). One of my favorites was the movie we watched last month, Stronger than the World or “Mais Forte que o Mundo”. In the movie, Jose Aldo, who will go on to become a world famous fighter, struggles to find a balance between addressing his past, the relationship with his family, his new future, and the dreams he pursues. Movies with powerful themes such as this one cross cultural barriers and are great to share with the Brazilian and Portuguese-learning communities, as well as anyone else who wants to join!

Looking for more to read, listen and watch?

Movies:
- Central do Brasil (Central Station, 1998)
- O Amor no Divã (Couples Counseling, 2016)
- Temporada (Long Way Home, 2018)

Music:
- Liniker e os Caramlows
- Novos Baianos
- Elis Regina

Books:
- Feliz Ano Novo (Rubem Fonseca)
- Primeiras Estorias (João Guimarães Rosa)
- O Triste fim de Policarpo Quaresma (Lima Barreto)
Portuguese Program Courses

Portuguese Program Fall 2019
AS.210.177 - Portuguese Elements I
AS.210.277 - Portuguese Intermediate I
AS.210.391 - Advanced Portuguese I: Language and Literature
AS.210.288 - Portuguese: Conversation Through Film and Music
AS.211.294 - Freshman Seminar: Soccer in Brazil: Opium of the Masses - Section 1: English (3 credits)
AS.211.294 - Freshman Seminar: Soccer in Brazil: Opium of the Masses - Section 2: Portuguese (4 credits)
AS.210.394 - Brazilian Culture and Civilization - Section 1: English (3 credits)
AS.210.394 - Brazilian Culture and Civilization - Section 2: Portuguese (4 credits)

Portuguese Program: Spring 2019
AS.210.178 - Portuguese Elements II
AS.210.278 - Intermediate Portuguese II
AS.210.392 - Advanced Portuguese II: Language and Literature
AS.210.394 - Portuguese for the Professions
AS.211.316 - Brazilian Cinema and Topics in Contemporary Brazilian Society
AS.210.275 - Fast Portuguese for Spanish Speaks and Speakers of Other Romance Languages

Portuguese Program: Study Abroad 2018-2019
Hopkins Intersession Abroad: Salvador, Bahia
Hopkins Summer Abroad: Cabo Verde, Brazil

Portuguese Program Course Highlight
AS.211.294 - Freshman Seminar: Soccer in Brazil: Opium of the Masses
  - "The best aspects of this course were learning from a Brazilian soccer fan how the sport has influenced that country's history, culture and politics. The classroom environment also was informal, which encouraged students to participate in discussions. Prospective students should know this is not just a class about soccer, but about Brazilian life, history and culture."

AS.210.177 - Portuguese Elements I
  - "The best aspects of this course are the enthusiasm of the professor, who works to keep the whole class engaged. You will graduate speaking the most spoken language in South America, the second-most spoken in Latin America, and one of the official languages of the European Union, Mercosur, OAS, ECOWAS and the African Union. Portuguese is also the 6th most spoken language in the world."
Portuguese Program Events

Spring 2019 Seminars, Symposiums and Social Events

**Portuguese Program & BRASA Pizza Lunch:** March 27th

**Portuguese Program Movie Nights:** February 14th, March 14th, April 18th
  - **Films:** *All the Reasons to Forget, Stronger than the World, and Father’s Chair*

**Brazilian Film Week:** Political Films April 15th, 16th, 17th
  - **Films:** *They Don’t Wear Black Tie, Chato King of Brazil, and Four Days in September*

**Portuguese Program Speaker Series:** February 22nd, April 24th
  - **Guest Speakers:** Dr. Rosana Pinheiro Machado, Federal University of Santa Maria, Brazil
  - Mr. Bruno Rezende, Cultural and Education Attaché, Embassy of Brazil, Washington DC

Fall 2018 Seminars, Symposiums and Social Events

**Program & BRASA Pizza Lunch:** October 26th

**Portuguese Program Movie Nights:** September 20th, October 25th, November 15th
  - **Films:** *The Man from the Future, Back and Forth, Aquarius*

**Portuguese Program Speaker Series:** September 21th, October 12th, October 29th
  - **Guest Speakers:** Dr. Lauren Reynold, University of North Alabama
  - Ms. Betty Milan, Author
  - Dr. Ricardo Roque, University of Lisbon
Studying abroad in Sao Paulo, Brazil was an absolutely amazing experience. It gave me a new perspective of the culture, people, and language that I could have never gotten from a traditional classroom. I got to meet some incredible people I still keep in touch with and see some unforgettable sights. I was very set on choosing a program where I could live with students of the country and in which I would be truly immersed in the culture. I chose São Paulo specifically because it is so big, I thought I would never run out of things to do. Although not all parts of the city were glamorous, I found some awesome places for both daytime and nighttime activities...and I got to travel around to other cities in Brazil! I was originally worried that I would have trouble with the language but with the help of the Brazilian students I lived with as well as the Portuguese classes I took there, I felt like a local within less than a month (it’s also important to note I am a native Spanish speaker).

I was very surprised by the hospitality the Brazilians showed towards the American students. I was always invited to join my Brazilian roommates’ parties and get-togethers to meet their friends. They are still some of my best friends and my only form of practicing Portuguese after finishing Portuguese classes. Not only were my roommates welcoming but every single person I met on the streets was warm and happy in typical Brazilian fashion. Overall, I keep São Paulo very close to my heart and plan to visit again in the near future. I highly recommend studying abroad in the beautiful country!

The Portuguese program at JHU prepared me for both the language and the culture of Brazil. The language classes gave me a very solid foundation from which I was able to flourish once I got to Brazil. The other classes in the program, as well as the Brazilian students I got to meet through the professors, classmates, and general interest in the program gave me a glimpse into the culture I would encounter once in the country. The professors are amazing too! They truly know how to inspire students to want to learn the language and made me feel very comfortable with trying. I couldn’t thank them enough for being so welcoming, understanding, and patient. Taking classes in the Portuguese program was one of the greatest decisions I have made in my four years at Hopkins.
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