

# THE BAYLOR GLOBAL CONNECTION

Newsletter for the Center for International Education  
Summer 2008

## Minas Gerais offers unique chance for the American student

by Dr. Lizbeth Souza-Fuertes

The Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) is situated in Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais, in southeastern Brazil. It is among the top universities in Brazil. There are three campuses, with the main one being Pampulha.

Studying at UFMG gives the opportunity to be in Brazil, a fascinating country with over 59,000 km. of beaches and beautiful cities, like Rio and Brasilia. Belo Horizonte is the third-largest city in Brazil, with over 2 million inhabitants. The city is known for its pleasant weather, natural resources and architectural treasures, as well as its artistic and cultural offerings. With approximately 560,000 trees, Belo Horizonte is one of Brazil's greenest capital cities, with 27 parks.

The city is also close to several historic colonial cities, such as Ouro Preto, Mariana and Congonhas; all are UNESCO World Heritage sites with beautiful art and architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries. Brazil also has the largest variety of gemstones in the world, with unique stones like alexandrite and royal topaz. The is where the name of the state



Photo taken by Meg Davis

In her photo entitled, "Shelling for a Living," Davis captures Brazilian locals performing their daily tasks. The mussels are caught in the nearby gulf, shelled by the locals and then sold to nearby businesses.

Minas Gerais (General Mines) comes from—the mines where gold, diamonds and other stones have been excavated.

The main campus offers many services for visiting students: ATM, banks, a post office, a travel agency and several bookstores. There is a variety of dining options, such as restaurants, cafeterias and snack bars. Students also have access to campus facilities, like the libraries, a sports center and computer labs.

UFMG has numerous agreements

with universities all over the world. Examples are: Belgium, Britain, Spain, Italy, India, Israel, Japan, South Korea, South Africa and many more. This gives the U.S. student opportunities to meet not only Brazilians, but also students from other parts of the world.

For more info, contact Dr. Souza-Fuertes, Director of Latin American Studies and Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, at Lilly\_Fuertes@baylor.edu.

This newsletter is published by International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). For this issue, Janna Quinn served as content manager, editor and layout designer. Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please write to us at:

One Bear Place #97381, Waco TX 76798-7381.

### Table of Contents

<b>A peek at UFMG, Brazil.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Fulbright scholarship winner.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Student experiences in Brazil.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Learn about an international student!.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Summer 2008 experiences.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Photo contest and other general info.....</b>	<b>6</b>



# Fulbright winner finds her place in Uruguay as teacher

by Ana Szogi

Taking surf lessons, teaching all the words to “Deep in the Heart of Texas,” meeting the U.S. ambassador to Uruguay, wearing a tunic to work, climbing more than 100 steps to the tops of lighthouses, riding a bicycle to work, eating fresh-grown food, horseback riding, experiencing winter in June, etc.

These are some things I have come to enjoy as a result of my time abroad in Uruguay as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA). Needless to say, it has been a wonderful experience, one in which I have been able to put to use the preparation that my time at Baylor provided.

As an undergraduate at Baylor, I majored in International Studies and Spanish. During my senior year I studied abroad in Mendoza, Argentina and



*Courtesy photo Ana stands outside a school, wearing a tunic, the teachers' uniform. Students wear tunics also.*



*Courtesy Photo Ana and her students participated in an exposition based on comparing U.S. culture and traditions with Uruguayan traditions. They dressed up in different traditional costumes.*

upon graduating in May 2006, I also went to Belo Horizonte, Brazil through Baylor's program. These two experiences gave me a grasp of what it means to be abroad: the personal challenges of being away from home, family and what is familiar, but also opportunities to participate in activities and visit places I would not have otherwise. Though it is difficult to summarize all that makes a study abroad experience, there were many rewards, namely, making friends with other Baylor students who went abroad, as well as international students who came to study at Baylor.

Since I had some teaching experience, I thought this would be a viable option for finding work abroad. I set out to find programs that would meet my interests and was fortunate enough to find out about the Fulbright scholarship. I applied to go to Uruguay, which is bordered by Argentina and Brazil, countries where I had studied abroad. It also happens to be the country where I was born.

In addition to my personal motivations for choosing Uruguay, there was a particularly unique program available. In Uruguay, ETAs work in two different phases. The first is being outside the capital, and the second phase is in the

capital, Montevideo. This allows for a more rounded perspective of rural versus urban. Also unique to this program is that ETAs work in public schools and are provided the opportunity to work with a variety of age groups, from kindergarten to college level. Since the Fulbright award is known for its support of scholarly work, the ETA program also encourages grantees to carry out independent research projects or take university courses. The combination of opportunities allowed for a synthesis of much of what I had already done and wanted to do. It was a perfect fit.

I am grateful for the preparation and support I was able to receive from Baylor. I hope more students and alumni will continue to seek out the rewarding experience of journeying down the winding road of life abroad, which, unpredictable as it may be, leads to many great discoveries.

It was a perfect fit.

For more information about the Fulbright program, visit:

<http://fulbright.state.gov/>

## Students discover life purpose during Brazilian program

by Dr. Eva Doyle

*Baylor in Brazil* is a five-week summer program with a focus on global health learning and faith-based community health service. Classes focus on global health issues, community health promotion and environmental health. Students attend classes taught by Baylor professors and work in partnerships with local health professionals and church leaders to promote health in local communities. Student interns help coordinate these projects, which can include health fairs, women's health classes, children's events, church workshops and health

assessment education in schools and rural areas. Children's Bible stories and spiritual health messages are often integrated into this work.

These experiences resonate with students who are drawn to different service-oriented professions: pre-medicine, health education, nursing, health science, social work, teaching and church ministry. The common factor is a desire to make a difference in people's lives. Students are challenged to define their life purpose in light of world needs and apply their professional skills as part of the solution. The program outcomes are life changing for the students, their community partners and the people they serve.

The program is located on the beautiful southeast coast of Brazil in Vitoria, Espirito Santo. Students stay in comfortable hotels on the beach (for quick access) and travel in group vans to proj-

ect destinations. Day excursions to local attractions and a few days on Rio de Janeiro's beaches add to this memorable trip.

The program directors have lived and traveled extensively throughout Brazil. Dr. Robert Doyle grew up in the Amazon region as the son of Baptist missionaries. His love for the people, mastery of the Portuguese language and experience in research and faith-based project coordination are valuable assets. Dr. Eva Doyle speaks Portuguese and is experienced in Brazilian church missions, health research and community service. This couple's passion for promoting health in Brazilian communities compels their commitment to *Baylor in Brazil*.

For more information, contact one of the directors at [Eva\\_Doyle@baylor.edu](mailto:Eva_Doyle@baylor.edu) or [Robert\\_Doyle@baylor.edu](mailto:Robert_Doyle@baylor.edu).

## Students talk about their experiences in Brazil...



My favorite part of the program was EVERYTHING! The people are wonderful, the food was amazing and Brazil has that "something" that makes you feel right at home.

I chose this program because it was a fantastic opportunity to get a hands-on experience with med classes, learn Portuguese and most of all make connections that would last a lifetime!

Living in Brazil made me realize that not having a car isn't such a bad thing! I loved stopping by the outside eateries and magazine stands; plus, the weather is absolutely perfect.

Study abroad really changes you; it takes you to another level, and it's simply beautiful to make a transition into a different culture with people who are so willing to share it with you.

My perspective on life after studying abroad is this: there are some opportunities that only come once in a lifetime, and it's those opportunities that will change your life forever.

**Jackie Bello traveled to UFMG in Spring '06. She is a senior majoring in psychology.**



My favorite part about studying abroad in Brazil was realizing on a daily basis how much we can learn about ourselves when placed outside of our comfort zones.

Everything changes when you live abroad. Daily rituals, habits and even the way you eat. The idea is to embrace the change and grow.

I chose this program because my parents are Brazilian, and I had never spent a significant amount of time in Brazil. Studying there was the perfect opportunity. Also, I was a pre-med student and through the UFMG program, we were placed directly into the school of medicine. There, we were able to dissect actual cadavers and receive hands-on medical experience from the hospitals.

Studying at UFMG pushed me academically and emotionally. I had to make friends in a matter of days and attempt to fit in. It was hard being away from home, but by the end of the experience, I was ready to spend the rest of my life in Brazil. Therefore, I have gained a great ability to adapt to new and different life situations and uncover great things about the world and myself.

By living in Brazil, I have made great new friends that I will keep in touch with for the rest of my life, unique medical experience and an obsession for traveling. Jackie Bello, another Baylor student, also studied in Brazil. Through the program, she became a lifelong friend with whom I will always be able to reminisce.

After studying in Belo Horizonte, I have gained a new outlook on the world. Most people who do not travel have a certain global hubris that can only be dispelled by going to a foreign country. Living in Brazil has definitely allowed me to respect the world with all of its beautiful cultures. My experience in Brazil was without a doubt the best experience in my life so far. GO TO BRAZIL!

**Bruno Fontes graduated from Baylor University in May 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in biology. He studied at UFMG in Spring '06.**

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●  
 ● **For more informa-** ●  
 ● **tion about the Brazil** ●  
 ● **programs, visit:** ●  
 ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●  
 ● **[www.baylor.edu/](http://www.baylor.edu/study_abroad)** ●  
 ● **study\_abroad** ●  
 ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



## From there to here:

### International students share their thoughts



I am originally from Namibia. My father is British, lived in Kenya and is an exploration geologist. My mother is South African, and she used to teach in Namibia.

When I was 8-years-old, we moved to Accra, the capital city of Ghana, West Africa. I went to school there until high school, and in 2001, I went to a boarding school called Kingswood College in Grahamstown, South Africa. I am now attending Rhodes University in Grahamstown, and I am in my second year. I intend to be a teacher for first and second grade.

I have been to the States twice before: once in 1997 and again in 2006. After finishing school, my family and I went there for holiday. We spent quite a bit of time in Texas, and I really enjoyed it.

I have always loved traveling and experiencing new adventures, so I thought an exchange program would be perfect. When I discovered that one of the universities I could attend was Baylor, I got very excited. I love Texas, and I really enjoy American people. I have been to many countries, and the friendliest people I have met in any country are Americans. Also, the fact that Baylor is a

Christian university is a bonus because I am a born-again Christian, am involved in my church in South Africa, and I love the Lord.

I am excited to make the most of my semester and to enjoy every new experience.

**Carlin King is a sophomore majoring in psychology and history. She will be coming to Baylor in Fall 2008.**



The experiences I had at Baylor University for my exchange semester were great with the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. I felt that I was encouraged to study and prepare before class,

because I needed to be ready for any pop quizzes, class discussions or tests. The professors and staff were very helpful. I had no trouble seeking assistance from them. Baylor's facilities also impressed me; classrooms and computer labs were well-equipped with new technology. The campus was huge, organized and amazing.

Another experience I enjoyed was sharing an on-campus apartment with two American students. It helped me

develop mutual exchanges with them, and it made us understand and discover more about our cultures.

「I didn't know  
I would also  
be part of the  
crowd.」

The best experience I had at Baylor was going to the football games. It was so fun! Even though I did not understand all the rules, it was exciting, interesting and entertaining all at once. I didn't know I would also be part of the crowd, cheering and shouting "Sic 'em, Bears!" and singing songs with the Baylor band's music. One of my roommates was in the band and the other played football, so it was extra-exciting for me to go.

The reason I came to Baylor was based on feedback and comments given to me from other students who were exchanged at Baylor. They spoke about the ideal studying environment and the student life at Baylor. I enjoyed every minute of it.

**Nam Trinh is a senior at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. He is a finance and management major. He studied at Baylor in Fall 2007.**

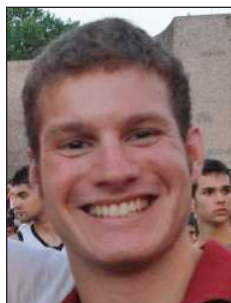
**Are you friendly? Want to learn about other cultures?**

**International Student Orientation Week is Aug. 18-22!**

**If you're interested in helping, you MUST be on-campus by Aug. 18 or sooner. Contact Katie at [Katie\\_Erickson@baylor.edu](mailto:Katie_Erickson@baylor.edu) for more details.**



## Current Baylor Bears find that studying abroad results in unforgettable experiences



I have traveled to many different countries during my short life, but living and studying abroad is a completely different experience. In addition to the shock of suddenly being thrust into a dif-

ferent culture, there is a good chance you will not know anyone around you. If you are living with a host family, the first few days of adjustment can be awkward. However, after a few days, you embrace your situation and the fun begins.

My first experience so far has been incredible. I have met amazing people, seen some beautiful sights and have had some ridiculously good times. I live in a university apartment, instead of a host family. I have been with a host family before and wanted to try something different. My housemates are great guys. We get along, cook together, go out together, travel together, etc. Some of us are in the same classes, which makes asking homework questions easier.

My apartment is very nice, far exceeding my expectations. It is nicer than many apartments I have seen back home, except that there is no air condi-

tioning. However, we have all the amenities of home: a stove top (nicer than the one I have at home), refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher and a flat-screen television.

I know many people neglected Spain to spend their short three-day weekends traveling around Europe to Rome, Paris, Bern, etc. Three days is simply not enough time to really enjoy a city, much less a country. I was able to spend about five days in Paris and Amsterdam each, but it was still not quite enough. Bottom line: Spend some weekends in Spain; it will not disappoint. To help rationalize such a decision, tell yourself this is not your last time in Europe, because it certainly will not be.

Though Madrid is awesome, Spain is an amazing place, and you will not capture it all if you do not leave Madrid. A long weekend is perfect for traveling to great places like Granada, Sevilla, Cordoba, Cadiz, Barcelona, San Sebastian, Mallorca, Malaga...the list is unlimited.

Other than the obvious differences from the States, like different workday hours, language differences and general cost of living, you will find that things in Spain are not so different.

**Warren Baas studied at SLU-Madrid. He is a junior at Baylor majoring in international business and entrepreneurship.**



Studying abroad in Monterrey, Mexico was by far the most amazing experience that I have ever had. One of the reasons why I loved it was because I learned how to adapt in an envi-

ronment where I didn't know anybody or what to do in my spare time.

I feel that Monterrey is a great place for college students to visit and study. The campus lifestyle was not bad at all. The campus is a little smaller than Baylor, but that didn't make a difference. What I liked about the campus was that they had deer, peacocks and ducks living on campus. They also had many beautiful gardens and unique building structures. This allowed me to relax my mind and think about different things, rather than stress about an upcoming test.

The people in Monterrey were very nice and caring. I had a conversational partner whom I talked with twice a week about Mexico, the government and daily life. She had a craving to learn new things and to become the best person that she could be. This taught me that if you want something in life, you have to go after it and not let anything get in your path.

**Luke Fertitta studied at Monterrey Tech in Mexico. He is a communication specialist major and a senior.**

**People Around the World Sharing**=cultures.conversation.campus.care.communication

**Step 1:** Apply to be a P.A.W.S Partner.

**Step 2:** Make friends with your P.A.W.S. Partner over coffee, hanging out at the mall/movies/etc.

**Step 3:** Learn about each other's cultures and different lifestyles. Make long-lasting friendships.

**Step 4:** HAVE FUN!



**P.A.W.S seeks to introduce international students to Baylor, connect them to U.S. students and integrate them to the daily life on campus. Make a difference to a new international student.**

For more info, email Beth at [Beth\\_RWalker@baylor.edu](mailto:Beth_RWalker@baylor.edu) or visit <http://www.baylor.edu/cie/index.php?id=8534>

## International Facts

**Number of international students accepted to Baylor for Fall 2008:**

**102**

**Top five countries they come from:**

- 1) China 2) Nigeria 3) South Korea  
4) Japan 5) India

**Their top five majors**

- 1) Pre-Business/Business Admin.  
2) Computer Science 3) Biology  
4) Information Systems  
5) Engineering

## Dates to remember:

- **Study Abroad Fair:** Tuesday Sept. 16 from 3 - 5 p.m. in Barfield Drawing Room
- **Interest meetings:** Mondays and Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in Poage Library Rm. 201B
- **Re-entry Conference:** Sat. Nov. 15 at University of Texas, Austin (for students who have come back from studying abroad within the last year to connect with other study abroad students)

## Deadlines:

- **Photo contest entries:** Oct. 24
- **Applications for: Spring semester abroad:** October 30, **Summer session:** March 1, and **Fall semester:** April 11



## Submit photos for the Sixth Annual Study Abroad Photo Contest!!

This contest is open to Baylor students who studied abroad between Fall 2007 and Summer 2008.

### Rules:

- Up to three entries may be submitted.
- Entries need to be submitted both digitally and in print form.
- A commentary, title and the category must be included.
- Submissions may be in color or black-and-white.

**Go to our Web site for more rules and deadlines.**

**There are three different categories you can submit to:**

- 1. Art and Architecture**
- 2. People**
- 3. Landscape/Cityscape**

Questions? Email:

**Photo\_Contest@baylor.edu**