

# Fagulha

June 2004

Volume 2, Número 2

## **BRASA's Secretariat Moves to Vanderbilt University**

On July 1, 2004, the Secretariat of the Brazilian Studies Association will move officially to Vanderbilt University. Marshall C. Eakin, professor of history at Vanderbilt will become the new Executive Director of BRASA for a six-year term. Since its inception in the early 1990s, Jon Tolman has served as the Executive Director of BRASA and the University of New Mexico's Latin American Institute has provided a home for the Secretariat. Their support has made possible the survival and growth of the organization.

At Vanderbilt, BRASA will be housed in the newly-created Center for the Americas. This new interdisciplinary center will bring together under one umbrella, Vanderbilt's programs in Latin American and Iberian Studies, American and Southern Studies, African and African American Studies, with strong linkages to the programs in Comparative Literature, Women's Studies, European Studies, and East Asian Studies. The Center has an initial funding of \$4 million dollars in seed money from the university and will seek to create a permanent endowment of \$10 million within five years.

Vanderbilt has a long tradition in Brazilian Studies dating back to the 1940s. In 1947, Vanderbilt created an Institute for Brazilian Studies. President Eurico Dutra

(cont. pag. 2)

## **BRASA Plans Conference on the Future of Brazilian Studies in the United States**

Page 3

## **Brazilianists Hold Re- gional Conferences in Texas and Southern Cali- fornia**

Pages 4 and 5

## **BRASA's VII International Convention: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil PUC-Rio, June 9-12, 2004**

---

*Newsletter of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA)*  
*Editor: Raul Reis*



**President:** Timothy J. Power  
Florida International University

**Vice President** Kenneth P. Serbin  
University of San Diego

**Secretariat:**  
Executive Director: Marshall C. Eakin  
Vanderbilt University

**Immediate Past President:**  
James Green, Brown University

**Executive Committee:**  
Cecilia Santos  
University of San Francisco

Celso Castro  
Fundação Getúlio Vargas

Christopher Dunn  
Tulane University

Emanuelle Oliveira  
Vanderbilt University

Jerry D'Avila  
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Luiz F. Valente  
Brown University

Maxine Margolis  
University of Florida

Severino J. Albuquerque  
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Steve Butterman  
University of Miami

Tânia Franco Carvalhal  
Universidade Federal do  
Rio Grande do Sul

William C. Smith  
University of Miami

**Alternate Members:**  
Brian Godfrey  
Vassar College

Ed Amann  
University of Manchester

João Roberto Mar-  
tins Filho,  
Universidade Fed-  
eral de São Carlos

Raul Reis  
California State  
University, Long  
Beach

Wendy Hunter  
University of Texas

**BRASA's Secretariat** (cont. from page 1)

visited Vanderbilt to inaugurate the new institute. In the 1950s and 1960s the institute expanded into a Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies. Brazilian Studies has remained the strongest regional focus of the program. Several hundred Brazilians have graduated from Vanderbilt's schools of Education, Management, Engineering, and Arts and Science.

Chancellor Gordon Gee, the chief executive officer of the university, visited Brazil in May 2003 meeting with alumni, government and university officials, news organizations, and various corporations. Chancellor Gee has reaffirmed the university's longstanding commitment to Brazilian Studies and has strongly supported the move of the BRASA Secretariat to Vanderbilt. The new address for the Secretariat as of July 1, 2004 is:

Brazilian Studies Association  
VU Station B 350031  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN 37235-0031  
U.S.A.

Marshall C. Eakin

## BRASA Plans Conference on the Future of Brazilian Studies in the United States

As the Brazilian Studies Association celebrates its tenth anniversary, the BRASA Executive Committee has initiated a new effort to fulfill its mission of promoting Brazilian Studies in the United States.

Part of this new endeavor involves planning a **National Conference on the Future of Brazilian Studies in the United States** that will be held in the fall of 2005. The Conference will enable academics from around the country to (a) identify common priorities for developing Brazilian Studies in the United States; (b) pinpoint areas in which different colleges, universities, centers, and individuals could work together on common projects; and (c) engage in follow-up discussions with the Brazilian embassy and consulates, Department of Education representatives, and foundations about how to implant the ideas and proposals that come out of the Conference. The Conference will be open to all interested Brazilianists.

In order to have broad participation in the planning of this Conference, the BRASA Executive Committee has appointed a Planning Committee that includes scholars from many important institutions with Brazilian Studies programs. The members of the Planning Committee are:

- **James N. Green, Chair:** Past-President, BRASA, Associate Professor of History, Brown University
- **Severino J. Albuquerque,** Professor of Portuguese Language and Brazilian

Literature and Culture, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Editor, *Luso-Brazilian Review*; Member, EC, BRASA

- **Sonia Alvarez,** President-elect, Latin American Studies Association, Professor of Politics, University of California, Santa Cruz
- **Luis Bitencourt,** Director, Brazil Project, World Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C.
- **John Burdick,** Associate Professor of Anthropology, Syracuse University
- **Marshall Eakin,** Professor of History, Vanderbilt University; Executive Director, BRASA
- **Jeffrey Lesser,** Professor of History, Emory University; Member, EC BRASA
- **Kenneth Maxwell,** Senior Fellow, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University
- **Timothy J. Power,** Associate Professor of Political Science, Florida International University; President, BRASA
- **Susan B. Quinlan,** Professor of Portuguese Language and Literature, University of Georgia, Athens; Past-President, BRASA
- **Kenneth Serbin,** Associate Professor of History, University of San Diego; Vice-President Elect, BRASA
- **Joseph Straubhaar,** Professor of Communications, Director of Brazil Center, Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas, Austin
- **Luiz F. Valente,** Chair of the Portuguese and Brazilian Studies Department, Brown University; Member EC, BRASA
- **Barbara Weinstein,** Editor, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, Professor of History, University of Maryland, College Park

The Committee has scheduled its first meeting for Wednesday, October 6, 2004 from 5:00-7:00 in Las Vegas, immediately after a BRASA Executive Committee Meeting and prior to the opening ceremonies of the LASA Conference. If you have any questions about the Conference, please contact James N. Green, Chair, Committee on the Future of Brazilian Studies: [jgreen@csulb.edu](mailto:jgreen@csulb.edu).

## **Brazilianists Hold Regional Conference in Austin, Texas**

About sixty people from universities across the state gathered at The University of Texas at Austin on April 10<sup>th</sup> for the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of Texas Brazilianists. By all accounts, the event, co-sponsored by the Brazil Center of the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies at UT and BRASA, was a total success.

The conference began with coffee, bagels, and greetings from Joseph Straubhaar, Director of the Brazil Center, Jennifer Potter-Andreu, Coordinator of the Brazil Center, and BRASA President James N. Green.

The topics of the morning panels were: “Internal and International Migration in Brazil,” “Literature and Exclusion,” “Black Activism in Contemporary Brazil,” and “The Formation of Brazilian National Identity Through Language and Literature.”

After lunch, participants gathered for afternoon sessions: “Journalism and Citizenship in Contemporary Brazil,” “Brazilian Economic Development: Past, Present, and Future,” “The Partido dos Trabalhadores: From Labor Movement to Governing Party,” and “Agricultural Land Use and Conversation Policy.” BRASA President James N. Green was invited to give a closing lecture entitled: “Brazilianists Against the Military Dictatorship in the 1970s.”

Jennifer Potter-Andreu explained how the idea for the event come about: “When we heard about BRASA’s day-long Southern California Brazilianist Conference last year, we thought it was a good model for a simple and easy-to-organize event. We sent out a call for papers to Latin American Studies programs around Texas and got over 25 paper proposals from doctoral students, visiting scholars and faculty at five universities. It was a wonderful opportunity for scholars to present work in progress and and get to know what fellow Brazilianists are doing around the state.”

In 2003, the BRASA Executive Committee passed a resolution encouraging Brazilianists to organize similar regional one-day conferences to encourage building close ties among people studying Brazil in a given geographic region. If you’d like to learn some tips about how to organize a conference in your area, contact the UT Brazil Center at <[brazil@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:brazil@uts.cc.utexas.edu)>

---

## **IX Conference of Southern California Brazilianists**

This year Ronald Harmon, a professor of Brazilian Literature at California State University, Fullerton organized and hosted the Southern California Brazilianist Conference that took place on May 1, 2004 and was co-sponsored by BRASA. The event was held in honor of Nancy T. Baden, the author of *The Muffled Cries: The Writer and Literature in Authoritarian Brazil, 1964-1985*, who recently passed away.

The day-long conference featured morning presentations by Ariane Dalla Déa on the Theater of the Oppressed, Wiebke Ipsen on the role of women in the Paraguayan War, and Eurípedes de Oliveira on the gender implications of Brazil's development policies.

After a delicious Indian buffet, participants heard talks by Linda Orozco about the future of Brazil's indigenous people, Robert Voeks on the erosion of plant knowledge in Brazil's Chapada Diamantina, and Mark Langevin on U.S. trade policy with Brazil and with free trade in the Americas as they relate to oranges and sugar cane.

Carmen Nava, associate professor of history will be organizing and hosting next year's conference at California State University, San Marcos. For more information, contact Carmen Nava [cnav@csusm.edu](mailto:cnav@csusm.edu)

---