

Brazilian and American Youth Cultural Exchange

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Directors

President: Caitlin Calder

Margot Calder
Richard Calder
Mary Devins
Lauren Gister
Holly Ridgway
John Williams
Dr. Nanko van Buuren

Honorary Board Member
Nelleke Beith

Mission

To provide educational enrichment opportunities, life and leadership training and cultural exchanges to empower young Brazilians and Americans to realize their full potential

17 Baker Road
Chester
Connecticut 06412
USA
Tel: (860) 526 2374
Fax: (860) 526 3906
office@brayce.org

Rio de Janeiro Office
Rua Henrique Dumont 125
Apt 301, Ipanema
Rio de Janeiro
CEP 22410-060
Brazil
Tel: 21 3204 2501
Email:
tobycalder@hotmail.com

For additional information or to make a donation please visit our website www.BRAYCE.org

Welcome to the Twelfth BRAYCE Newsletter

BRAYCE is currently preparing to welcome five young Brazilians to participate in the BRAYCE Cultural Exchange Program at Camp Hazen. Rafael (Fez) Guerra, from Jardim America in Rio de Janeiro, will return as Assistant Waterfront Director; Edvilson Neto from Paraty returns as an Associate Counselor to be joined by classmate Thuane Sendreti, who will join the Leadership Training Level I program. Pauline Batista, whom many of you know well by now, is in her freshman year at Mitchell College, New London, will be a volunteer counselor. Also from Rio, Bruno Leonardo de Araújo, from the favela of Bráz de Pina, will become the first “camper” to attend Camp Hazen. We hope the experience will greatly improve his language skills enabling him to return in 2012 as a Leadership Training participant. From the USA, Annie Denton from Connecticut College (2011) will intern in the Bráz de Pina favela for two months where she will assume responsibilities established by last summer’s interns Susan Beaty and Mary Liz Van Nes.

Samba Rio :The popular annual BRAYCE fundraiser, Samba Rio, was held at St. Joseph’s Parish Center on February 19, 2011. Guests danced the night away to the Brazilian beat of José Paulo’s band and Eric Galm’s fabulous drumming group from Trinity College. Exotic Brazilian entertainer, Quenia Ribeiro, dazzled everyone as she led guests in festive Samba moves.

New BRAYCE Logo (see above): Board member and graphic designer, John Williams, has developed a fabulous new logo integrating all the crucial elements of the BRAYCE program - colors of the Brazilian and American flags, the concept of a bridge (building bridges of opportunity) and youth. Perfect.

Looking Ahead: A fundraiser, by invitation only, for the BRAYCE Scholarship Fund is scheduled for Friday, September 9th, on Jim Scala’s beautiful Connecticut Riverfront property in Deep River. The event features the Big Green Pizza Truck which some of you may already be familiar with. For “first-timers” I can tell you that this is truly an extraordinary experience. In addition to live music, a silent auction, great wine and assorted beverages, guests will savor a great deal more than plain old cheese and pepperoni pizza. If you are interested in receiving an invitation, please call (860) 526 2374 by August 31. Tickets \$75 per person.

Fundraising: After four years in Chester, we have decided on a new location for our annual fundraiser next year. In partnership with **The Kate** theatre in Old Saybrook we are considering various options to the Samba Rio format and are excited at the prospect of this new venue. We have reserved The Kate for the first Saturday in September of 2012. Stand by for further details.

BRAYCE Website: Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of an anonymous benefactor, BRAYCE is planning a reconstruction of its Website. In addition to disseminating standard information about the organization, we will be including: clips from BRAYCE events; interviews with Brazilian and American participants, volunteers and partners, virtual tours of favelas where BRAYCE interns work, under the aegis of Brazilian partner, IBISS; news about Rio de Janeiro, Brazilian culture and social media.



Pauline jumps for joy in front of the Arches of Lapa on hearing of her acceptance at Mitchell College, New London, Connecticut.

Participants in the BRAYCE Cultural Exchange Program 2011



Thuane Sendreti is a high school student from Paraty. "I am really happy, to be a participant LEA (LEAdership Trainee) at Camp Hazen, It will be a good opportunity to practice my English and my skills and to learn new ones. I know that I will learn a lot and I will try to help all there. Thank you."

Thuane is also a small boat sailing instructor which will enable her to make a very useful contribution to Camp life.

Edvilson Neto is returning to Camp Hazen as an Associate Counselor. Since last summer he has continued his role as a mentor for literacy programs with children in Paraty and as a volunteer fireman. He was accepted into the Tourism part-time program at the University in Angra dos Reis, not far from his home in Paraty. Welcome back, Edvilson.



After three years as a LEA and counselor at Camp Hazen, **Rafael "Fez" Guerra** was obliged to defer for a year in 2010 in order to complete his university course in Tourism at Rio University. To fulfill his practical requirement for the course he secured a house staff position at the world famous Copacabana Palace Hotel in Rio where his excellent English skills proved to be invaluable. He is thrilled to be returning to Camp Hazen this summer as Associate Waterfront Director.



Pauline Batista with Brazilian Ambassador, Ronaldo Dunlap, Vice-Consul, Sonja Reis, and Richard and Margot Calder. Pauline has just completed her first semester as a freshman at Mitchell College in New London, Connecticut. A straight "A" student, she not only works in the Admissions Office as a College Student Ambassador, but also managed to have fun participating in the college's spring musical production of *Guys and Dolls*. Pauline will be volunteering as a Counselor at Camp Hazen for the Summer.



Annie Denton (Connecticut College 2011) is committed to working with "at risk" favela children. A fluent Portuguese speaker who has spent time in Brazil, Annie has worked with several NGO's helping develop programs with street children as well as malnutrition and development issues for younger children. She has also worked in a shelter for children with HIV/AIDS. Annie is looking forward to her internship with BRAYCE and feels confident that her past experiences will enable her to make a valuable contribution to her work with favela youngsters. She loves the outdoors and enjoys music. We are thrilled to have her on board.



Bruno de Araújo lives in the community of Bráz da Pina, in Rio. BRAYCE has been providing English lessons to prepare him for his American adventure. He is in ninth grade, loves music and is an accomplished drummer. Bruno is proud of his city: "Rio de Janeiro has several nice places to visit. The first thing I recommend is the Christ the Redeemer (The huge statue of Christ atop the high hill known as Corcovado) which is now one of the seven Wonders of the World. The second is Sugar Bread (Loaf), also very beautiful and much visited by tourists worldwide. And the third is the slums. They are not so much visited, but this is where you know the whole culture of Rio de Janeiro. These are places I know and I think it's cool to know". Bruno will be BRAYCE's first camper at Camp Hazen. He is very excited and looking forward to making new friends.

SAVE THE DATE for The Big Green Pizza Truck on Friday, September 9th from 6-11 p.m., rain or shine. See details on page 1 overleaf. If you are interested, or would like more information, please call (860) 526 2374 by August 31 for an invitation