Spring, 2015

Greetings and welcome to the Portuguese School!

As Director of the Portuguese School I want to welcome you on being selected to study at the Middlebury College Portuguese School – Summer 2015! I am glad that you'll be studying Portuguese with us and hope that we continue to kindle your interests in Portuguese and the Lusophone world.

I am currently planning the academic and cultural part of the program. In addition to the normal language classes, we will be offering several cultural modules during the seven week-programs. This promises to be another exciting year! We will be celebrating the centennial of the Language Schools! Several activities are being planned for the week of July 15- July 19. Stacey Kent and James Tomlinson will perform a special concert just for the Centennial. There will also be other special performances by Alumni from the Portuguese school as well as a Centennial Conference featuring many past language school students. In addition, there will be a performance showcase inviting students to dazzle the audience with their talent, special dinners, and a campus wide 1915 themed Ball with a live local band! The schedule of all events during these 5 days will be updated by the time you reach campus.

Rui Zink, our Portuguese writer in residence, a well-known television personality, cartoonist, and writer of several books, was also included in the Best European Fiction list in 2012. We are also planning to bring Phillipe Barcinski, Brazilian film director, to present one of his films. Stacey Kent and James Tomlinson, two internationally known musicians will be our Artists-in-Residence. Additionally, we will have modules on Brazilian, culture and civilization, emergent Brazil, the Brazilian rain forest and environment, and Afro-Brazilian traditions in addition to modules of Portuguese and African culture and literature. Our program will feature a good number of lectures with guest speakers, films from the Portuguese-speaking world three days a week, a concert of Brazilian music, and a Capoeira show. We will be also offering weekly classes on Capoeira with a Brazilian capoeirista. And, we will also be hosting a talent show, so bring anything you'll need to show off your skills: musical instruments, dance shoes, or anything else, if you want to participate. We will be celebrating Carnival and St. John’s festival in Middlebury, so bring or make your own costume! These events will be exciting, beautiful, meaningful and full of amazing energy! We recommend that you ‘Google’ Saint John’s festival (Festa Junina) in order to find out more about the clothes we use.

I’m also eager to see what kind of expertise and talent students will bring to our School. In past years, students have participated in all manner of clubs, from Capoeira, samba, and soccer to yoga, band, volleyball and more. And if there’s a club you want to launch, we’d love to have it if possible: send me a message about what you want to do, learn, or practice. As Middlebury has extraordinary sports facilities, you might consider bringing your soccer cleats, swimming suits, tennis racquet, and comfortable clothes for capoeira.

If you are placed in Level 2 and above, in May you will be receiving an email from the Assistant Director, Dr. Regina Santos. You need to schedule an appointment with her for your oral assessment interview and written assessment prior to your arrival in Middlebury. Placement is conducted in order to best situate students. We are planning to start the interviews after May 14th. When planning your departure for the end of the summer, please note that you may leave any time after lunch on Friday August 7th.

The faculty and staff of the Portuguese School and Middlebury College are diligently working to make this an unforgettable summer. If you have any questions related to the program, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to getting to know all of you this summer at Middlebury!

Best regards,

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