

PATHWAYS ▫ PARTNERSHIPS ▫ STUDENT SUCCESS

# ENGAGE

A COMMUNICATION FROM HARPER COLLEGE

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 Harper College®

# BRAZIL

## Fulbright Fulfillment

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SPENDS MONTH RESEARCHING IN BRAZIL

Associate Professor of Anthropology Patricia Hamlen spent four weeks representing the United States higher education system as part of a Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad program last summer. As part of the experience, she conducted field research in Brazil, gaining a better understanding of Brazilian life, culture and society and learning things she could pass on to her students. It wasn't the first time she's researched abroad; Hamlen, a Harper alumna, has traveled worldwide, sometimes taking students with her, to further her knowledge and fuel her anthropological passion.

**Q:** Why do you believe these experiences are beneficial for college faculty?

**A:** Traveling broadens your experiences, exposes you to new interests to pursue and new questions to ask and creates challenges to explore and master. We learned as individuals on this trip, but we also were able to learn from the diverse backgrounds of fellow

faculty members selected from all regions of the country in a wide variety of disciplines at the college and university level.

“ THE MESSAGE I HOPE TO CONVEY AND INSTILL IN MY STUDENTS IS THAT CULTURE MATTERS. IT CREATES OUR IDENTITY. ”

**Q:** Why do you believe these experiences are pertinent to your students?

**A:** The message I hope to convey and instill in my students is that culture matters. It creates our identity; it shapes our world view and our social reality. It determines our social behavior and personal interactions.

I have found that these travel study programs, by providing opportunities to become more familiar with other cultures, are critical in creating not only tolerance for these differences, but also a deeper understanding and appreciation for these differences.

**Q:** How have you incorporated this experience into your curriculum?

**A:** I teach Introduction to Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology and frequently infuse Brazil and Brazilian culture comparative examples into class presentations in the curriculum.

I also have several ideas for curriculum projects, originally submitted to the Fulbright Commission, that reflect my experiences in Brazil. The creation of a new course on the people and culture of Brazil, for instance, or the development of a new offering as part of Harper's learning community program, which would be the above class with a course in Latin American history or a composition or literature course.

**Q:** How do you think your Fulbright experience has benefitted Harper students?

**A:** The more I know, the more I can share with my students—and these experiences ensure that the knowledge I share is accurate, in the sense that I have seen and experienced them firsthand.



Associate Professor Patricia Hamlen takes part in the Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad program.