

Members of the MSU Alumni Clubs of Brazil in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro hosted receptions in their respective cities for 20 current MBA students and their faculty leaders during a May 2005 MSU study tour. In this photo, members of the São Paulo club pose with fellow alumnus Eduardo Barreto of the Rio de Janeiro club (center of photo wearing blue shirt and red tie) during the May 19 reception. Barreto and Francisco Itzaina (front row, third from right, wearing yellow tie) were instrumental in facilitating the group's activities.



Photo courtesy of Howard R. Dashney

MSU Alumni Facilitate Brazil MBA Study Tour

Two of MSU's Brazilian alumni, Francisco Itzaina and Eduardo Barreto, assisted faculty of the Eli Broad Graduate School of Management in organizing a two-week study tour to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in May 2005. The trip allowed 20 MSU graduate business students to visit multinational and local firms in Brazil to learn about the Brazilian economy and strategies for successfully doing business in that country. The program was led by Frank Schultz, a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Management, who was assisted by Helen Dashney, director of corporate academic relations for the college.

Itzaina is currently the South American president of Rolls-Royce International. Barreto is a senior counselor at A. T. Kearney, a global management consulting firm. Both earned their MBA degrees from MSU in 1974.

Through their professional contacts, Itzaina and Barreto arranged for the students to visit a variety of companies, includ-

ing the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Embraer, a Brazilian aircraft manufacturer. They also worked with other Brazilian Broad School alumni, as well as Brazilian MSU alumni from other colleges, to host the students at receptions in both São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. MSU has strong alumni clubs in both cities.

While in São Paulo, study tour participants enjoyed a visit with faculty at the Escola de Administração de Empresas de São Paulo, a premier Latin American business college that was founded in 1954 with the assistance of several MSU faculty members. (See related article in the Latin America section of the spring 2005 issue of this publication.)

Summarizing the positive impact of the study tour, Dashney said, "Due in large measure to the tremendous support of our Brazilian alumni, students gained tremendous insight into the country's economic, political, and cultural history and the impact of that history on doing business in Brazil today."

MSU Peace Corps Participation Tops 2,000

During 2005, MSU reached a major milestone in its 44-year relationship with the Peace Corps – more than 2,000 MSU alumni have now been Peace Corps volunteers. As of August, including the 81 alumni currently serving in 33 countries around the world, 2,003 graduates had survived the rigorous screening and training processes to embrace what the Peace Corps bills as "the toughest job you'll ever love." Peace Corps records indicated that only four other universities in the nation had reached this level of participation.

"MSU is proud of its long relationship with the Peace Corps and of the enthusiasm of its graduates for this sort of international involvement," said Provost Kim Wilcox. "Our 2,000 alumni who have served as Peace Corps volunteers are tangible evidence of MSU's commitment to advancing knowledge and transforming lives on an international scale."

MSU's history with the Peace Corps began with involvement in the planning and establishment of the agency in 1961. U.S. President John Kennedy saw the agency as an opportunity for idealistic Americans to volunteer their time, energy, and expertise in promoting peace through projects in developing countries. After the founding of the Peace Corps, MSU graduates were among the initial cohort of volunteers sent to countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The MSU campus was actually a training site for Peace Corps volunteers heading to Nigeria later that year. (The specific destination for many of these early volunteers was the new University of Nigeria at Nsukka, an institution that many MSU faculty and administrators assisted in establishing and staffing.)

Except for a brief hiatus, MSU has hosted a Peace Corps recruiting office since 1978. Currently, the office operates under the auspices of the dean of International Studies and Programs (ISP) and is housed in the International Center. It is staffed by two MSU graduate students who are returned Peace Corps veterans and who report to Peace Corps staff in the Chicago regional Peace Corps office. The MSU recruiters for 2005-06 are Lisa Robinson, who served in Poland from 1998 to 2000, and Lexine Hansen, who served in Morocco from 1997 to 1999. Intent on recruiting even greater numbers than in previous years, the recruiters have reached out more systematically to returned Peace Corps veterans at MSU and in the community. They have also lined up a rigorous schedule of events, class talks, and appearances at career fairs.

According to ISP Acting Dean Jeffrey Riedinger, there are several reasons that MSU has been so well represented in Peace Corps. "MSU graduates students in a very broad range of academic programs, many of which match the needs of developing countries," Riedinger said. "In addition, the international focus of MSU, including the strong emphasis on study abroad, produces many graduates with international experience and interests. And MSU, in its land-grant tradition, seems to foster an inclination toward public service in many of its alumni."

For more about the MSU Peace Corps Office, visit the website at www.isp.msu.edu/peacecorps

— Jay Rodman



International students have been an important element of campus life since the late 1800s. From a handful in the early days, the population has grown to more than 3,000 today. One of the earliest to leave a photographic record was Kolai S. Thabue of Bassein, Burma (now Myanmar), seen here in an 1891 photograph.

—Photo courtesy of MSU Archives and Historical Collections



In the early 1900s many international students belonged to the Cosmopolitan Club. An international organization founded in Italy as Corda Fratres (Brothers in Heart), it was introduced into the United States after the turn of the century. A chapter was founded at Michigan Agricultural College (as MSU was then called) in 1910. In 1926, according to the yearbook, there were 38 "active members" from more than a dozen countries, plus the United States. K. M. Liu of China (front row, fourth from left) was president at that time.

—Photo courtesy of MSU Archives and Historical Collections

MSU has hundreds of faculty members of international origin. They arguably serve a dual function, contributing to the intellectual life of the institution through their academic work while bringing their home cultures to the institution and to the broader community. For decades, they have supplied content for a wide variety of on-campus activities, as well as made themselves available to schools and community groups wishing to learn more about the world. In sharing their diverse cultures, they enrich the university and the surrounding community.

In 1943 Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (as MSU was then called) hired Professor Shao Chang Lee to help create a new Institute of Foreign Studies. Born in China in 1891, Lee had received his early education there before coming to the United States and earning degrees at Yale and Columbia. Before coming to MSU, he had a long and distinguished career as a professor and administrator at the University of Hawai'i. MSU's new institute offered international courses and sponsored international lectures and other activities. Lee continued to head up the Institute (and later Department) of Foreign Studies until his retirement in 1960.

—Photo courtesy of MSU Archives and Historical Collections

