



Monthly Report from Korinn Mallory
Long-Term Outbound Student in Brazil
Due Date: October 1, 2010

Well my second month has flown by even faster than the first. My Portuguese is improving steadily, although it is still a struggle to communicate clearly sometimes. Especially when people forget that I am still learning and speak fast. I have had some misunderstandings, one of which resulted in me waiting at the wrong bus station for my parents to pick me up! I have also started Portuguese lessons which is helping to give me a nice foundation on which to build from. The lessons are free too! I just have to help out with the English classes first, and then afterwards I have Portuguese class with some other exchange students. I really like the arrangement because it is nice to help the other learners (because I totally understand what they are going through!) and they actually have helped me understand Brazilian culture and language more!

As I said at the end of my last letter, I visited the seaside town of São Sebastião at the beginning of September. It was quite beautiful there and it was also my first time in the Atlantic Ocean! We visited the beach with all my family (mom, dad, brother, grandma, aunt, cousin & his wife), and it was really great to spend time with all my host relatives. On the beach there are various stands where you can buy things like food, or touristy stuff, and also these guys who walk up and down the beach selling food like ice cream or roasted cheese! I was curious about the roasted cheese and it turns out he is walking around with a miniature barbecue-er that roasts what looks like string cheese on a stick. It was really good when I tried it, but my family thought I liked it so much that I wanted two, but man those things are filling! Luckily my host brother took one for the team and ate it for us. :) We also visited the island that is right off the coast of São Sebastião, its called Ilhabela, which means Beautiful Island in Portuguese! It is indeed beautiful, being very mountainous and green with many small beaches that very popular. it is so mountainous that many of the houses and restaurants are built on the hill below the road, so that only the parking lot and roof are visible from the street. We explored one restaurant that was built into the hillside, no walls, just hill on one side and a view of the ocean on the other. There were many beautiful views, not to mention the way the natural hillside played a role in the decor, along with beautiful furniture and even live wild parrots

that were in one room! Unfortunately we left a day early because it was rainy, but we shouldn't have been surprised. The town of São Sebastião has such a reputation for storms that it is nicknamed São Sebastrovão, with 'trovão' meaning 'thunder'!

Speaking of rain, the first rain in my city for over three months, Birigui was last friday! The weather went from very hot and dry to cold and wet overnight and has stayed the same ever since, almost every morning I wake up to a nice thunderstorm. It makes it very difficult to get out of bed in the morning!

But before the rain started I got to experience a brazilian churrasco. I had eaten churrasco before but this time I got the whole experience; its like the difference between just eating barbecue and then actually going to a barbecue. Anyway it was a churrasco for just my class and they had rented out a churrasco 'area' for lack of a better word. But there was a pool and dancing and lots of delicious steak to eat! I had a great time with all my classmates, I think its awesome how everyone is so close here! I also went to a costume party with the other exchange students, that was a really great bonding experience. I brought an old football jersey from the football league I cheered for when I was 10 or so, so I went as an American football player! I even drew the black stripes under my eyes for effect.

This month really has just breezed past, and now I have to come to terms with the phrase "two months" which simultaneously seems like forever and no time at all. But tomorrow brings a new month, and I am headed to my cousins wedding! I'd like to think it will make up for the fact that I missed my cousin Blaine's wedding in California last weekend.

Until November first!
Korinn Mallory

