The Cost of Opportunity
Higher Education & Social Mobility in Rio de Janeiro’s Baixada Fluminense

March 2017 Brazilian Delegation Visit and Conference

17 faculty and student collaborators from IM/UFRJ visited Duke University for a weeklong exchange experience, the highlight being a daylong conference on higher education in Brazil on March 27, 2017.

The Duke Bass Connections team accompanied their Brazilian counterparts to Washington, D.C., where they visited the new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The Duke/IM team also met with Duke administrators to present a clip from The Cost of Opportunity documentary, learn more about access, student services, and financial aid at the university.

HUNDREDS of engagements on Facebook by family and friends of IM students and staff.

277 attended conference panels, including 10 students and one professor from HCBU Winston Salem State University.

50 RECORDED and 10 HOURS of filmed interviews with students and faculty were produced.

Building A Scientific & Educational Utopia in Northeast Brazil

Dr. Miguel Nicolelis, Duke School of Medicine Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience, delivered the concluding address at The Cost of Opportunity conference on March 27, 2017. His keynote discussed his experience building a new institute in a marginalized region of Brazil that links maternal healthcare, K-12 education, and international neuroscience.

Nicolelis’s most recent book, Made in Macaíba, chronicles the founding of the Institute of the Brain in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte.

At the conclusion of The Cost of Opportunity conference on March 27, Dudu de Morro Agudo (top) and Stephanie Reist (PhD candidate in Duke Romance Studies; bottom) screened O custo da oportunidade (The Cost of Opportunity). The documentary film—available in Portuguese with English subtitles—draws on 50 interviews with IM students and their families conducted in July 2017, in addition to members of the Duke Bass Connections team.

Reist and Dudu’s film will be used in local high school to encourage students to apply to the university. The Cost of Opportunity will also be submitted to international film festivals.

Summer Research Documented in Film

IM student Luana Lima da Silva (history) being interviewed her mother at the Archdiocese of Nova Iguaçu.

Guilherme Cabral (M.A. in history) with his mother. Carla Cordeirinha (literature) with her mother.

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