BRAZILIAN TEXAS MAGAZINE

BUSINESS - SOCIAL LIFE - NEWS - SPORTS

No.3
May/2005

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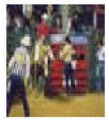

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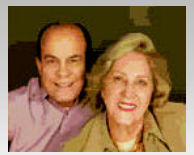
VIP Personality

Dr.Nilson Fanini's



Dr. Nilson Fanini's status as a world figure, with access to heads of state and political leaders on every continent, enables him to exercise a powerful ministry of God's grace and reconciliation. For years he has been a spiritual consultant to the last seven Presidents of Brazil and is an Ambassador at Large for his country. In a recent visit he met with the Presidents of Hungary, Belorussia, Taiwan, the Ukraine and Pope John Paul II. However, peacemaking for Dr.Nilson Fanini is not confined to the conference table. It means meeting people on the front line and preaching peace with God and among men.

Pastor Dr .Nilson do Amaral Fanini is a man greatly dedicated to God whose Christ-centered ministry focuses on a powerful proclamation of the gospel. Currently Dr. Fanini serves as the pastor of the 8,000 member First Baptist Church of Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, where he has ministered for more than thirty years. However, "REENCONTRO" Non Governmental Entite, has taken him around the world into more than 200 countries where he has preached the good news of the word. During the past three years, he has led crusades in dozens of cities spread across five continents.

Dr.Fanini's ministry emphasizes discipleship and growth in the Christian life. For this reason, he gave leadership to founding The Baptist Theological Seminary of Niteroi, where he serves as President and which last year celebrated its 15th anniversary. As a Christian educator, Fanini is a published author of numerous books, serves as a member of the Department of Education for the state of Rio de Janeiro, and is a frequently sought after conference speaker. Among his various degrees he holds a Bachelor's in Law from the Fluminense Federal University, Rio de Janeiro, and a Master's in theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE leaders visit with Cuban President Fidel Castro during a July 8 meeting in Havana. Meeting participants included BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz, immediate past BWA President Nilson Fanini of Brazil, Castro and new BWA President Billy Kim of Korea (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

"Reencontro" focuses on reaching out to families through its day schools, health programs, medical clinics, and provisions of food to individuals in need.

In Christian social ministry, Pastor Fanini serves as President of Reencounter, which ministers to the local community across Brazil through radio, television, and the distribution of Bibles.

During 2003 the work of Reencounter reached a significant number of individuals through its various activities. In medical services nearly 100,00 received care from its physicians and dentists. In touching the lives of children, over 500 received schooling. Adult technical training courses were offered in auto repair, electronics, English, typing, and music to mention a few. Reencounter provided 400 tons of food to needy families. In addition, over 2,000 hours of radio transmission and another 3,100 hours of television by way of 132 stations were used to proclaim the Word of God. The ministry published 160,000 copies of its newspaper and to date has distributed nearly 20 million Bibles across Brazil. Furthermore, 20 evangelistic crusades were held within the nation and around the world. Reencounter recently constructed an $800,000 center to house 500 street children with the purpose of reintegrating them into society as believers in Jesus Christ.

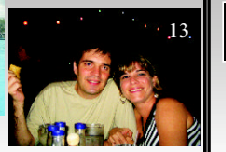
Dr. Fanini has been married to Helga Kepler Fanini for more than 45 years. They are the proud parents of two sons, Otto and Roberto and a daughter, Margareth.

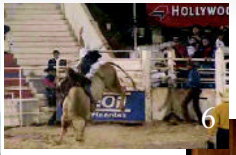
They have been blessed with three very special grandchildren. President of the Baptist World Alliance for 1995-2000, he is currently President of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. By his own admission, "For me, it is a great privilege, but it is received, above all else, with deep humility, with everything placed in the hands of God".

In Houston Texas

Pastor Nilson Fanini and his lovely wife Mrs. Helga Fanini were in Texas during the month of February to visit their daughter Margareth, their sons Roberto and Otto and their grandson Gabriel. During their visit to Texas, they were invited for a cozy dinner at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Glasper and family, where they also celebrated Otto Fanini's birthday. It was a simple but very enjoyable evening with good food, friendship and great fellowship. Present that evening were also Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Lima and family. It was without doubt, an unforgettable evening, where the families came together to meet the great Fanini family and welcome them to Houston, Texas, once again. Pastor Fanini said a wonderful prayer and blessed the Glasper's home with a reading from scripture 2nd Chronicle Ch 7: 15, 16

In This Issue





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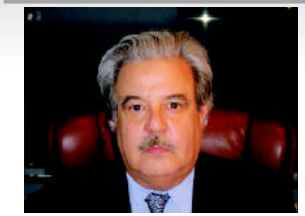
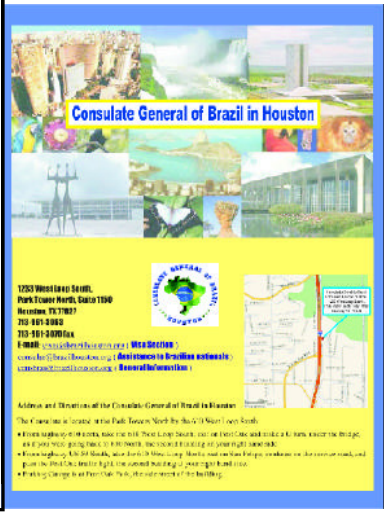


Ambassador Carlos Alberto Pimentel
Consul General of Brazil in Houston

The Protocol Service of the City of Houston has, among its programs, a very interesting series which figures Consul Generals talking about some specific aspect of their countries during lunch time. The Protocol itself prepares snacks of typical food if possible, and those who attend the lunch will also have the opportunity to listen to the "Consul General of the day" (as you would have the "fish of the day" at a restaurant…)



EDITORIAL

The fight continues and once again we are here with you, navigating in the right direction and bringing you a world of information. I am sure that the information that I bring you will be very valuable and extremely important.

Several obstacles came our way trying to stop us from publishing any more editions of our magazine. However, we did not give up. We continued strong and we didn't get scared or disturbed by any criticism we heard about our last edition.

We are here to develop new ideas, introduce you to the existence of several businesses, publish articles by qualified professionals, and recognize the great people in our community.

Our objective is to be the liaison between the two countries U.S. and Brazil; we want to extend our hands to all people interested in building relationships between these two nations.

In pointing our arrow in the right direction and doing a good job, we receive excellent feedback from professionals in all areas, professionals that are extremely successful in their businesses but also feel the need to support the cause and extend their hands to continue helping us in the ladder of success with our magazine.

We must always give back the respect and confidence that these professionals have in us. We hope that in reading this new edition you enjoy our interviews and articles, and we hope that you will become our new partner in the Brazilian Texas Magazine.

SERGIO LIMA

ART

Guilherme Martinez a Brazilian artist, and a senior at Elsik High School.

His detailed expressive renderings have earned him medals at V.A.S.E(Viusal Arts Scholastics Event) for superior achievement at the state level for the past two years. Guilhereme Martinez also earned a Gold Key for his portfolio at scholastics whichis now being displayed in New York City. The Houston livestock show and Rodeo,one of the biggest competions of the year; warded Guilherme Martinez with the best of show award for the Alief area and was invited to receive his award at the Rodeo show in front of thousands of people.

At the show Guilherme was invited to participate in the 2004 Western Academy workshop. Guilherme Martinez's' urge to compete has earned him a scholarship at Rocky Mountain School of Art and Design. Even with all the achievments that I have accomplished in the past few years I still have been unable to find any sponsors to help me persue my passion.

Contact me online at www.hatemenow@aol.com if you have any question

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Beauty is in the Eye of the One Behind the Lens

Andre Fon, the Brazilian Photographer.

By Bia Hamann

A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of chatting with photographer Andre Fon. A most charming host, Andre explained to me how, through his technique known as "Photomorphosis", he became known as a "magician" within the photography world. Andre told me "there are no ugly women, only women who need a little production assistance". In Alagoas, Andre started the glamour photography fever. Unlike professional glamour photographyc studios in the U.S., in Brazil, Andre worked by himself, perfecting the art of make-up and hair while getting the "perfect shot". You can see some of his amazing "before and after" shots at www.somaceio.com.br/andrefon.

Getting to know Andre made me think if beauty is really in the eye of the beholder, or the one behind the lens. This Brazilian really knows his craft. It is a pleasure to have him here in our community. Welcome, Andre Fon!

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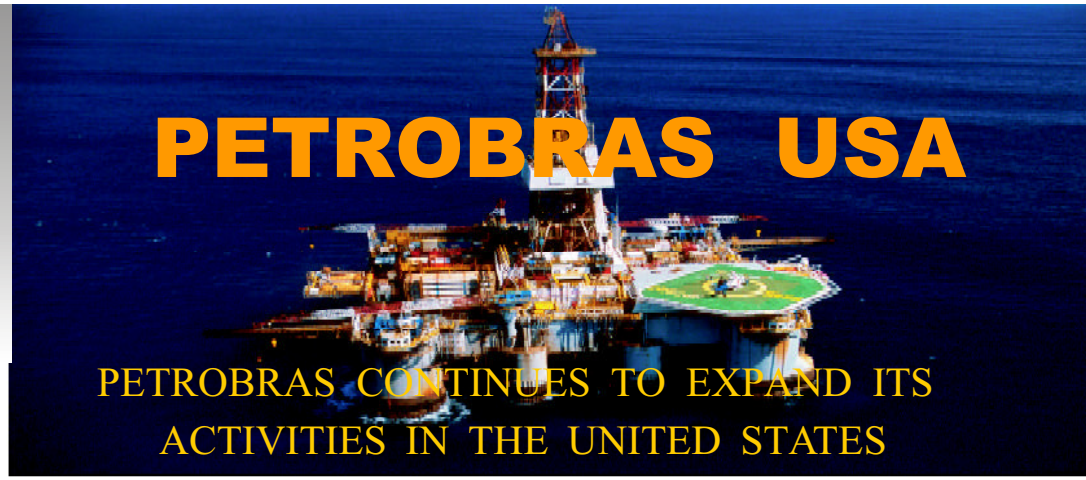


PETROBRAS USA

PETROBRAS CONTINUES TO EXPAND ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

In accordance with its Strategic Plan, Petrobras continues expanding its business in the United States through its wholly owned subsidiary Petrobras America Inc, based in Houston.

The company is currently drilling appraisal wells to ascertain the dimensions and best ways to develop its deep and ultra deepwater discoveries made in the last two years, achieving very positive results.

Two other exploratory wells, which will test new and even larger prospects, will also be drilled this year in this ultra deepwater province, where Petrobras America is positioned as one of the leading players.

In April 2004 the company announced another significant hydrocarbon discovery in the deep waters of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. The Coulomb #3 was drilled to test a fault block adjacent to the Coulomb gas accumulation discovered by Shell in 1988 and successfully confirmed significant gas reserves in Mississipi Canyon Block 613. Petrobras America Inc has a 33,33% record title interest in this block and Shell, the operator, has the remaining interest.

The Coulomb # 3 well, located at a depth of 7,565 feet, will commence production shortly, thus establishing a new world record for deepwater production.

This result confirms the potential for significant gas reserves in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, where Petrobras holds 100% participation on three more prospects of similar characteristics; the first of which the company intends to drill early next year.

Additionally, in April Petrobras America Inc obtained a participating interest in 60 blocks from Newfield's ultra-deep Treasure Bay Project. Petrobras will drill one firm exploration well and has the option to drill a second exploration well to earn an interest in all Treasure Bay leases. Treasure Project is an "ultra-deep" exploration concept to explore for oil and gas in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, Petrobras will also participate in the drilling of the Blackbeard West Prospect with a 20% interest, in partnership with Newfield, BP Exploration and Production Inc. and Exxon Mobil Corporation, the latter being the operator of the project.

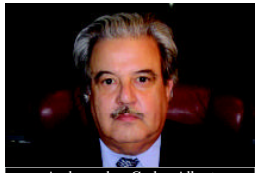
After consolidating its participation in the ultra deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, where Petrobras has had four consecutive discoveries in the last two years, the company is seeking now to diversify its portfolio and develop another core area in the ultra deep shelf play of the GOM. With this strategy the company intends to establish a position in this high potential and almost unexplored new frontier in order to secure a share of the US gas market.

PETROBRAS

Rodeo in Brazil

The Protocol Service of the City of Houston has, among its programs, a very interesting series which figures Consul Generals talking about some specific aspect of their countries during lunch time. The Protocol itself prepares snacks of typical food if possible, and those who attend the lunch will also have the opportunity to listen to the "Consul General of the day" (as you would have the "fish of the day" at a restaurant...)

So when the "Brazilian day" came, the Protocol had already chosen a theme: "Rodeos in Brazil". In fact, it was rodeo season in Houston and it would be interesting to learn about what the other American country in the Southern part of the hemisphere does with cattle shows. The big obstacle was my total ignorance on the theme. With the help of my staff, I was able to build a short presentation accompanied with some graphic and photo information of Brazilian rodeos, specially the most important of them all, which takes place in Barretos, a medium-sized town in São Paulo and the capital of rodeos in Brazil.



Ambassador, Carlos Alberto Pimentel Consul General of Brazil in Houston

But I felt that it would be too little to concentrate on rodeos alone. Any Brazilian experience could not match the Texan overwhelming and powerful rodeo season. So I decided to place the rodeo, the popular party, in the context of the Brazilian agro-industry. I tried to show them two aspects: a) the evolution of Brazilian cattle raising; b) the excellence of the Brazilian leather industry,explained the ambassador.

Both the meat industry and the leather industry are winners in the international market. Last year, Brazil became the biggest exporter of beef in the world and our leather shoes and leather artifacts are exported everywhere, including the United States.

A couple of days ago, my wife went to buy a pair of shoes for herself and bought a Coleman shoe, just to find out in small letters that the product was made in Brazil. My presentation also gave me the opportunity to show that production, productivity and export goods are linked into a chain of human activities which start at the farmer's gates, passes through University and R&D (research and development) activities to the retailer shop where a juicy cut of beef or elegant ladies' shoes are offered to the public. I tried to show the amount of work and effort that it is necessary to achieve a good and desirable final product; at the same time, I demonstrated, I believe, how prepared and aware the Brazilian private sector and civil society are of the need to attain high quality and improve the process of production of such goods.

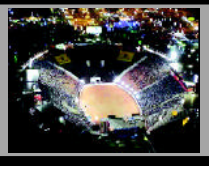
By. Ambassador, Carlos Alberto Pimentel Consul General of Brasil In Houston

Rodeo in Brazil

Festa do Piaõ Boiadeiro (story of bulls and(ows) Barreto

Main Arena with 35.000 places

Public: 1 million spectators



AAWTS WINES FROM BRAZIL

On February 10, 2005, The African-American Wine Tasting Society hosted a Wine Dinner at **FOGO DE CHAO** in Houston, TX, sponsored by MIOLO Wines from Brazil. (www.miolo.com.br)

The African-American Wine Tasting Society is the nation's only non-profit
African-American wine tasting group. Their focus is on improving and developing
an open environment where people feel comfortable tasting wine: They are
committed to furnishing unbiased knowledge about the cultural legacy of wine
and wine tasting: They also work with local and non-local wine distributors and
local retail wine businesses to improve exposure of wines from around the world

On February 10, 2005, the "AAWTS" hosted a wine dinner for 72 of their members. The guests had the opportunity to taste a variety of wines from the Brazilian winery MIOLO.

MIOLO Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2002

MIOLO Merlot Reserve 2002

MIOLO Chardonnay Reserve 2003

MIOLO Seleçao White 2003 (Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc e Riesling blend).

The MIOLO winery is located in the "Vale dos Vinhedos" (Vineyard Valley) in Rio Grande do Sul. Situated in the "Serra Gaucha "(Hills). The region is characterized by an average altitude of 450 to 650 meters above sea level, which makes it ideal to grow quality grapes.

The MIOLO winery was founded in 1989 and the expansion project of the winery began in 1998. Presently the MIOLO Winery has the capacity to produce 4,000,000 (4 million) liters per year with a plan to reach 12 million by 2012. The company works with high technology in the elaboration of their wine. It has three underground cellars for the aging of their wines in barrels of American and French oak. Most of the company's wines have earned international awards in the most important wine contests. MIOLO is equipped with a modern structure to receive tourists. The winery is open daily to the general public from 8:00AM – 6:00PM including weekends. You will be able to see firsthand the production process, take a stroll through the vineyards, get to know the wine cellar and sample some excellent wines.

MIOLO is the number one producer of "fine wines" in Brazil. It is the first Brazilian "fine wine" to be marketed to the US consumer.

The wines from MIOLO will be available in Texas through your local liquor store in the near future. If you need additional information check the MIOLO website for the nearest representative.

The 72 guests had a great learning experience. They enjoyed the food at Fogo de Chao and enjoyed the great wines from Brazil.

The land that is known for great soccer, samba, bossa nova and coffee, is now being discovered as a producer of "fine wines" by African Americans.

BRAZIL TEXAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Houston Companies Meet Petrobras, Partnering for Growth

Oil & Gas companies seeking new business opportunities in Brazil gathered March 29, 2005, in Houston, to hear future investment plans and business opportunities with publicly-traded, state-owned Petrobras, in a Luncheon organized by BRATECC Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce. Keynote Speaker Armando Cavanha, Petrobras - Executive Manager for Procurement, described the process for vendor qualification, strategies sought by Petrobras to complete investments planned. Over 100 participants attended.

Director Nestor Cerveró foresees investments abroad to reach $7.5B by 2010.

Petrobras earmarks nearly $800 Million for Latin America leading $420M to Argentina, $145M for Venezuela, Ecuador $80M, Peru $40M, and Bolivia with $80M. Nigeria to home $350M investments. Houston-based Petrobras America Inc. will dedicate $135M targeting increased production in the Gulf of Mexico with investments there to reach $1.2B by 2009.

By. Ricardo peduzzi

Armando Cavanha and Consul. Carlos Alberto Pimentel

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BRATECC planning other events for 2005, details at www.braziltexas.org.

PRODUCTS

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SinterBall Bauxite | *Overview*

SinterBall Bauxite is a high strength bauxite proppant used around the world for high-stress, high-temperature, high flowrate hydraulic fracture treatments. SinterBall Bauxite is manufactured by Mineração Curimbaba, Ltda. in Poços de Caldas, Minas Gerais, Brazil. It was originally introduced in the industry in 1988. Curimbaba viewed this as a superb opportunity to diversify into the worldwide oil & gas industry as well as another way of utilizing the vast bauxite reserves controlled by The Curimbaba Group. The Curimbaba bauxite holdings represent the largest known deposit of high-grade bauxite in the world, not oriented for the production of metallurgical grade alumina. The high alumina content typically present in the Curimbaba bauxite is necessary for bauxite proppants in order to provide the strength, chemical resistance and thermal stability required for severe downhole environments and to ensure optimum production of hydrocarbon reserves at risk.

Through the years, like most engineered products, SinterBall Bauxite has undergone several developmental generations, each providing improved performance characteristics and manufacturing efficiencies. This has all culminated into today's SinterBall Bauxite - the consistent, quality product that is supplied around the world for the most critical and severe stimulation treatments.

SinterBall Bauxite is surpassed by none throughout the world as a bauxite proppant. Since 1988, SinterBall Bauxite has been used in thousands of fracs for major as well as independent operators in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. In North America alone well over 500 million lbs. have been supplied.

Curimbaba has become the largest worldwide supplier of bauxite proppant. With the ore reserves available to Curimbaba in Brazil, the expansion potential is limitless. Therefore it is Curimbaba's intent to remain the global leader in bauxite proppant technology and manufacturing.

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CORPORATE

The Curimbaba Group is a family-owned conglomerate with corporate headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil. One of the many companies of The Curimbaba Group is Mineração Curimbaba which is dedicated to the mining and processing of high grade bauxite ore in Southern Brazil. Mineração Curimbaba was established over 50 years ago and controls over 300 million metric tons of proven reserves. The headquarters for Mineração Curimbaba are located in Poços de Caldas which has a population of approximately 160,000 and is situated in the crater of an extinct volcano. The processing and manufacturing operations are located at a 1,500-acre site just outside of Poços de Caldas. The numerous ore deposits which Mineração Curimbaba controls are scattered in and around the rim of the crater therefore they are very close to the processing facility.

Mineração Curimbaba manufactures many products for several industries. Two of the main products produced are SinterBall Bauxite and SinterLite Bauxite proppants used in hydraulic fracture stimulation of oil and gas wells around the world. Curimbaba proppants are distributed by in north America by Minerals & Services,Inc. and main products Sintex.

Sintex Minerals & Services, Inc.
Canada
United States
Mexico
Sosten International Minerals
Worldwide
(except for the Americas)
Somiven Venezuela Baredes
Argentina **Mineração**
Curimbaba Brazil

CURIMBABA PROPPANTS

In August of 2004, Sintex opened a new 17-acre Distribution Center located in Rosenberg, Texas. Sintex Minerals & Services, Inc., established in Houston in 1993, is the exclusive distributor of Curimbaba proppants for Mexico, Canada and the United States. Sintex has shown an aggressive, steady growth rate which has positioned them as the leading bauxite proppant supplier for North America. As a result of this and projected future growth Sintex purchased the raw land and constructed a new 85,000 sq. ft. warehouse to import and distribute Curimbaba proppant throughout the region in a faster and more cost efficient manner. Construction of an additional 85,000 sq. ft. warehouse extension is already planned to accommodate product line expansion and further market penetration.

All Curimbaba proppant is imported in bulk bags containing 3,300 lbs. each shipped in overseas shipping containers. One side of the Sintex warehouse is constructed with dock-high bays to receive the shipping containers from the Port of Houston. The bulk bags of Curimbaba proppant are unloaded, segregated and stacked according to grain size.

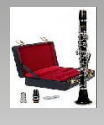
Customer loadouts occur on the other side of the warehouse. This process utilizes two stationary conveyor systems to load bulk trailers for shipment and one mobile conveyor which can be used for loading a shipment or unloading and re-bagging a return shipment. These conveyors provide the ability to load three trucks simultaneously for faster customer response.

By separating these functions Sintex can receive product from the Port of Houston and load product for customer shipments at the same time, adding to the efficiency of the operation. The facility is operational 24/7 to satisfy the dynamics of the stimulation industry.

The Sintex Distribution Center includes a fully automated drive-on truck scale which also adds efficiency.

In addition to the warehouse, the Distribution Center houses the Sintex corporate offices as well as the quality control laboratory.

Marcelo Meira - Profile *Music*



Marcelo's contributions to the advancement and dissemination of Brazilian culture in Houston cannot be overstated. Since his arrival in our city in 1991 he has brought the beauty and elegance of Brazilian music to the mainstream of Houston's cultural scene.

Marcelo Meira was born and raised in the city of Limeira, state of São Paulo, Brazil, where from a very young age he was influenced by the artistry of his uncle, the well-respected painter, luthier and musician Stival Forti. He started learning to play the clarinet in his hometown's Wind band, and soon thereafter he moved to the city of São Paulo in order to continue his musical studies with Brazil's best classical musicians. In 1990, after becoming a founding member of the world-respected São Paulo State Symphonic Band and participating the Campos do Jordão Music Festival, he was offered a full scholarship to Arizona State University to continue his musical studies.

The following year, Marcelo relocated to Houston, where he graduated from the University of Houston with a double degree in Musical Arts and Computer Sciences. While in Houston, Marcelo performed with the city's most important arts organizations and musicians: with the Houston Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Grand Opera, the Greenbriar Consortium, as well as performed and recorded in Brazil and Japan with some of the world's most famous classical musicians.

In 1994, Marcelo was the first-prize winner of the prestigious Entergy Young Texas Artist competition in Conroe, Texas. In 1993 and 1994, Marcelo was the only Brazilian chosen to participate in the Pacific Music Festival, in Sapporo, Japan, founded by Leonard Bernstein, conductor of the New York Philharmonic, one year before his death.

The Pacific festival brought together young music students from all 5 continents to study and perform together under the guidance of the world's most respected musicians. Marcelo has performed as a clarinet soloist with the LBV Symphony Orchestra in Brazil, and with the Clear Lake and North Houston Symphony Orchestras in Texas.

But nothing about Marcelo's career is of greater significance than his priceless contributions to the knowledge and appreciation of Brazilian art and culture in Houston. During his residence in Houston, Marcelo brought together internationally acclaimed classical musicians from the Houston area and popular players from the Brazilian community in recitals hailed by critics and audiences alike, as well as in radio interviews and performances at National Public Radio, broadcasted across the United States. Frequently partnering with other Brazilian organizations in Houston, such as the Brazilian General Consulate in Houston and the Houston Brazilian Association, his recitals were the best attended Brazilian cultural events in the greater Houston area in recent memory. In 2002, with the collaboration of Tam Airlines, ProTours and Travel and Vida Brasil, Marcelo brought and performed with his uncle Stival Forti, who was the protagonist of one of the most successful art exhibitions in the Cloister Gallery, Christ Church Cathedral, in downtown Houston.

Marcelo currently performs regularly with the Woodlands Symphony Orchestra, as well as in frequent recitals of Brazilian popular music around the Houston area. He is also the head quantitative analyst of El Paso Marketing, a division of El Paso Corporation in downtown Houston. Marcelo is the proud father of 12-year-old Miriam Elisabeth, and lives in the Museum District with his wife Audrea Maria and his step daughters Annelise and Ana Carolina.

Brazil Energy & Infrastructure

Recent developments in markets abroad combine with unrelated decisions at home, and leverage interests in Brazil's energy and infrastructure potentials.

Forecasts for growth in global hydrocarbon demand increased to 84.3 million barrels a day (MBD), in an annual growth average of 1.8 MBD, resulting mainly from prospects for China's energy demand impacted by U.S. weather and economy - said the International Energy Agency in a March 11, 2005 report.

Only t en days earlier, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) 's *"Economic Survey of Brazil"* diagnosed current investment levels in infrastructure particularly, to be insufficient for sustained growth. OECD observed the Public Private Partnerships – PPP's recently legislated may pot entially represent viable alternative to encourage funding for infrastructure – as in logistics, perhaps?

While Spain already seconds the U.S. in Brazil investments, and China looks closely for energy allies in the region , other Asian and European compani es also vie for energy and infrastructure business . In such a scenario, local projects present a potential for Houston companies to team with local firms to explore alliances with Asian and European partners in securing returns from that market's potentia ls.

Of course, the principal Houston Oil & Gas firms are already entrenched and operat ing in Brazil . But t he recent convergence of global players stimulated by developments in world markets presents specific opportunity for Houston firms. Brazilian logistics requirements for urgent remediation exacerbate the need for intellectual capital providing global project management, project finance & engineering for the energy and infrastructure sectors.

And while long term contracts may play an instrumental condition turning feasible long term investments in other economies, those facilities represent a pioneering development in Brazil - a market dire for long term capital.

Because of the magnitude of investments required in infrastructure however, local contracts have introduced longer terms that allow for service providers and operators to invest in infrastructure.

Last December America Latina Log istica (ALL) firmed a 23-year freight contract with the Agrenco Group to haul 23M metric tons (MT) of grain until 2027. BR, Petrobras' marketing subsidiary , now negotiates e xtending service contracts to 10 years from the current 3 year terms – a drop in the ocean to say the least, a beginning nonetheless.

Still o ne would expect the same berth and minds that allowed Petrobras, Vale do Rio Doce, and Embraer to the ir industries forefront, to be designing the local securitization of long term contracts – the missing link for s elf-sustaining capital market s, but challenges ahead are huge - When operators of private terminal concessions recently proposed contracts be extended to 25 years from the current 5 , regulators at Agencia Nacional dos Transportes Aquaviarios - ANTAQ minced no words - "*Out of the question*", they said.

Agenda for Growth

- Petrobras announces to invest $11 billion in 2005, an increase of 38% over 2004, and $1.7 billion in Espirito Santo's 1.8 billion BOE – Mar '05
- JBIC finances $500M, Mitsubishi and Marubeni $90M, and banks $300M to increase oil movements from Campos Basin to 630,000 bpd - Mar '05
- Petrobras and China National Offshore Oil study joint E&P, downstream, pipeline operations, after a $1B agreement with another China company, Sinopec for gas pipeline crossing Brazil – Mar 05
- Repsol YPF discusses JV with Petrobras to develop Mexilhão field in Santos basin – Mar 05
- Statoil considers Brazil reserves key, looks for LNG exports, Brazil targeting domestic needs – Mar 05
- MRS links 55% of Brazil's GNP to Rio, Santos ports, to double 100M MT in 5 years – Mar 05
- Brazil, Venezuela governments announce venture for new refinery in Brazil – Feb 14, 2005
- Agencia Nacional do Petroleo (ANP) announces Oct Auctions for natural gas potentials offshore - Jan 05

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SINTEX
Minerals & Services, Inc.

Ore Formulation:

Since the Curimbaba Group owns and operates the mines in Brazil from which we extract our ore, we can control the chemical composition of the aluminum ore used to make SinterBall Bauxite and SinterLite Bauxite. In our operations the ore is simultaneously mined from various deposits. Each deposit may have significant variations in mineralogy. Each truckload of ore is sampled for chemical composition determination upon arriving at the Mineração Curimbaba processing plant. Knowing the chemical composition of the truckload, it is then directed to one of several large stockpiles where it is blended in proportions that will result in the precise mineralogy designed for use in manufacturing SinterBall Bauxite or SinterLite Bauxite. Using this approach allows us to maintain a high degree of consistency from ore mineralogy all the way to finished product performance.

Manufacturing:

SinterBall Bauxite and SinterLite Bauxite are manufactured in a continuous process. Upon completion the proppant is packaged in bulk bags containing 3,300 lb. each. Each bag represents one lot and is assigned a unique lot number for reference. From each 3,300 lbs. lot a sample is collected and tested according to API RP60 procedures. The results of these tests are tabulated in a Quality Control Certificate for that particular lot of product. A copy of this certificate is then attached to the bulk bag containing that lot.

Shipment:

The bulk bags are then loaded into overseas shipping containers and transferred via ocean freighter to inventory at the Sintex Distribution Center in Rosenberg, Texas.

Quality Documentation:

During the final loadout process for customer delivery the Quality Control Certificates are collected and referenced to the truck being loaded. This completes the quality assurance chain of documentation. In the event of a question concerning any shipment of Curimbaba proppant, we can trace the material back through loadout, packaging and manufacture of the product all the way to the mineralogy of the ore stockpile used. The product never enters a common population such as a silo until loading for final delivery to the customer so that the chain of quality control documentation is not broken. This is unique in the proppant industry.

Loadout:

To fill a bulk order of Curimbaba proppant from the Sintex Distribution Center in Rosenberg, the bulk bags are individually drained into a hopper and screened once more as it is conveyed to a pneumatic trailer for shipment to the customer. As each bag is gravity fed onto the conveyor, a sample is collected from the falling stream using a sampling device (as per API RP-60). All samples for a given truck are combined to form a composite sample representing the truckload. This composite sample is reduced and split using a sample splitter (as per API RP-60). One half of the reduced sample is sent along with the truck to the final destination for the customer. The other half of the reduced sample is retained in the Sintex laboratory at our Rosenberg Distribution Center and stored for a period of six months in case there is a request for further testing.

SINTEX
Minerals & Services, Inc.

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