

# Portugal Alumni Newsletter

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## AEIF 2013 Winner Project Update

The 10 team members of the 2013 AEIF competition winning project, ABC Justice, met on October 18 at Portuguese NGO, Association to Support Victims of Crime (APAV), to discuss project goals, team member responsibilities, and the ABC Justice program website design.

The ABC Justice program aims to increase the transparency of the criminal justice system for Portuguese youth, thereby empowering them and contributing to a more equitable, representative, and fair judicial system. While the team core is made up of two alumni from APAV, the remaining members fully represent Portugal's community, with both Fulbrighters

and other alumni represented (IVLP, SUSI, E-teachers and the BFTF), with their backgrounds and ages ranging from an 18-year old student to teachers, government officials and lawyers.

In the project's next phase, the website (which is currently under development) will be launched and the team members will work on the design and contents of the information sessions, which will be held at schools across the country thanks to the extensive contacts of our SUSI and E-teacher alumni.



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## Professional Development Workshops

U.S. Embassy Lisbon (recipient of a 2013 Mission Driven Alumni Project grant) launched a professional development workshop series in October to our expanded alumni community, in partnership with Ful-

bright Portugal and four of our American Corners, following a large-scale recruitment drive last year to increase the number of registered Embassy alumni from 500 to nearly 1100. We coordinated the launch of our series with

the annual Fulbright Thanksgiving event (mentioned below). The following day our inaugural workshop took place at the University of Lisbon's American Corner on November 30. So far, nearly 65 alumni from all

# Professional Development Workshops

over Portugal, including the islands of Madeira and the Azores, have participated in our workshops, and we are expecting as many as 40 more alumni to join the final workshop on 22 February.

Following the series completion in February, we plan to follow up with a number of focused, smaller-scale sessions on grant-writing and applying for grants that we hope will lead to the formation of solid teams who will compete for both the AEIF and Post's proposed small grants competition, as well as other funding sources to support their projects. In addition to the opportunity for alumni to connect, learn and

grow together, we hope the workshops will be transformational, both in the professional and personal lives of the participants. U.S. Embassy Lisbon has also held a number of social activities on the sidelines of the workshops.



## Annual Fulbright Thanksgiving Dinner Held

The Fulbright community in Lisbon celebrated its 15th annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 29 at the Escola de Hotelaria e Turismo de Lisboa, which for the second year in a row, was open to all alumni. In attendance were current and past Fulbright grantees and the Fulbright Commission's staff, board members, USG exchange programs alumni, partners and friends. Chargé d'Affaires ad interim John Olson was also in attendance and provided remarks. The Thanksgiving Dinner kicked off the alumni professional development workshop series, which began the next day at the University of Lisbon's American Corner. Nearly half of the workshop's participants attended both events.



## Alumni Member News

### Pelcor wins the American Chamber of Commerce in Portugal award

On January 9, Sandra Correia (International Visitor, 2013), chief executive of the Algarve cork company, Pelcor, received the AmCham Tributes award on behalf of Pelcor, during the Chamber's annual awards ceremony presided by the Minister of the Economy, António Pires de Lima, at Palácio da Ajuda. The award honors individuals and companies that have made a significant contribution to bringing Portugal and the U.S. closer together.

Portugal produces half of the world's cork, and 33% of the world's total cork-oak area. The company produces fashion and accessory products such as bags, wallets, and umbrellas-- all made from the bark of the cork oak.

In 2011, Ms. Correia was named "Best Woman Entrepreneur of Europe", awarded by the European Council of Women Entrepreneurs.

### Gene therapy to treat progressive blindness shows promise

Biomedical researcher and the current president of Portugal's Science and Technology Foundation, Miguel Seabra (Fulbright, 1988) was featured in the Portuguese media, following the publication of a British scientific magazine article, *The Lancet*, (published on Jan. 14, 2014) which highlighted the work Seabra and his research team have been doing on the use of gene therapy to reverse progressive loss of vision.

### Patricia Portela returns following her stint as IWP Outreach Fellow



Iowa Writing Program alumna Patricia Portela, the IWP's first-ever Outreach Fellow in 2014, was lauded by the organizers for her contributions to the program. According to the IWP, "Ms. Portela initiated and took part in opportunities that broadened her reach within the University of Iowa, across the Midwest, and the greater U.S. She took full advantage of the opportunities offered to engage with a broad and diverse set of audiences, all first-hand experiences of very different and important literary and cultural communities. For her key presentation as the Outreach Fellow, Ms. Portela reimagined and reshaped her public art installation *Hortus* as part of the UNESCO City of Literature-run Iowa City Book Festival. Underscoring a schedule full of readings and other lectures, Ms. Portela's installation in downtown Iowa City was one of the festival's biggest

draws. It bears repeating: for our Outreach Fellow, in its inaugural formulation, we could not have asked for a more proactive and collaboratively successful candidate. Ms. Portela has become the model. And in addition to her events and collaborations, Ms. Portela worked diligently on her own writing projects, completing one book, a number of short stories, one play, and had more than 50 pages of her work translated into English while a resident here at the IWP."

# Alumni Member News

## **Luso-American Foundation leadership positions announced**

On January 2014, the Luso-American Foundation (FLAD), one of the most important foundations in Portugal, which is devoted to improving U.S.-Portuguese ties, announced its new president and executive council which included a number of key alumni:

Vasco Rato (NATO Tour, 2004) – President

Jorge de Figueiredo Dias (International Visitor, 1980) – Executive Council Member

Mário António da Mota Mesquita (International Visitor, 1979; Voluntary Visitor, 1987) – Executive Council Member

Michael Alvin Baum, Jr. (Fulbright, 2010) – Executive Council and Administrative Council Member

Miguel Monjardino (International Visitor, 1995; Voluntary Visitor, 1997; NATO Tour, 1997, 2004) – Board of Trustees Member

## **Former Minister of Finance appointed to IMF**

On January 12, 2014, Vitor Gaspar (International Visitor, 1994), the Minister of Finance from 2011 to 2013, was appointed to an IMF position.

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## Upcoming Alumni Events

22 February: Alumni Workshop on Leadership and Coaching— American Corner, Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon