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 From the Ambassador's Desk | [A Bi-Monthly Update from the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon](#)
**MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KATZ**
**IN THIS ISSUE**

It is with bittersweet sentiment that I pen what will be my final Ambassador's remarks here in Portugal. Saddened by the thought of leaving this beautiful country that has been my home for the past three years, I am nonetheless proud of all that we have accomplished and of the positive strides that we have made in bringing Portugal and the United States into an even-closer bond of mutual respect and friendship. This friendship is a legacy, with roots in 1791, the year when President George Washington appointed David Humphreys as our first Ambassador to Portugal. During my tenure in Portugal, I have traversed the country from the north to the south, and have crossed the sea many times to visit both Madeira and the Azores as well. I have been constantly impressed by the warmth, resilience, and sincere hospitality of the Portuguese people as they welcomed me into their offices, their schools, their institutions, and their homes. What makes Portugal a great country is its people, and just as they have risen above challenges in the past, I have no doubt that they will do the same when faced with today's particular challenges. The youth of this country represent the first generation to be born into a democracy, a singular fact which carries with it not only great opportunities, but also great responsibilities. It is upon the shoulders of Portugal's youth to ensure that Portugal remains the stable, safe, and welcoming democracy that it is. From my interactions with youth in schools and universities across the country, I can attest that they are more than ready for this challenge. Of course, my time in Lisbon would not have been the same without the support, counsel, wisdom, and most importantly the friendship of the American and Portuguese staff at the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon. To them, and to all of you, I would like to issue a heartfelt obrigado.



And so now, as the time draws near for me to take leave of Lisbon, I can only promise that this is not adeus but rather até logo.

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Climate change represents one of the major challenges of the 21st century, but as a nation of innovators, we can and will meet this challenge in a way that advances our economy, our environment, and public health all at the same time. In June, the White House unveiled President Obama's Climate Action Plan, the Administration's renewed commitment to addressing the causes and adverse effects of pollution with a view towards protecting and preserving the planet for future generations. The President's plan is a multifaceted approach to climate change, focusing on clean energy solutions, fuel efficiency, and energy security. The Plan will also address infrastructure issues by strengthening our roads, bridges, and shorelines so we can better protect people's homes, businesses, and way of life from severe weather events.

Recognizing that climate change is a global challenge, the Administration will work with international leadership to galvanize action to significantly reduce emissions, prepare for climate impacts, and drive progress through the international negotiations.

[Learn more about President Obama's Climate Action Plan](#)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EMBASSY

### USS EISENHOWER VISITS LISBON

The U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower paid a visit to Lisbon in June, dropping anchor in the Tejo River and inviting Embassy staff and contacts to tour the ship and gain a glimpse into life aboard the U.S.'s second-largest carrier.

From the 20th to the 22nd of June, the Embassy organized groups of press, U.S. exchange program alumni, university administrators and faculty, and local secondary schools to take part in guided tours of the ship. With more than 300 Embassy contacts participating in these visits, the USS Eisenhower – fondly known as “Ike” – received a steady stream of visitors over the weekend, who in turn enjoyed learning the history of the carrier and marveled at the sheer size and complexity of the aircraft operations onboard.

On the evening of Friday the 21st, a formal reception hosted by Commanding Officer Captain Hitchcock was also held onboard the USS Eisenhower.

[Learn more about the USS Eisenhower](#)



*USS Eisenhower*

## STARTMEUP FINALE

On June 8, StartMeUp – powered by the U.S. Embassy, an entrepreneurial contest aimed at providing Portuguese aspiring entrepreneurs with the resources needed to develop and market their ideas and innovations, ended with a round of final pitches by the competition’s 15 finalists at NOVA University.

A panel of experts which included Embassy-sponsored entrepreneur David Miller evaluated the 8 minute pitches and were amazed by the contestants’ creativity and business acumen. In the end, however, two teams managed to rise above the competition: Around Knowledge and IS2You-Wi-Go. Around Knowledge presented “BIPS,” a real-time cloud analytics system with the potential to anonymously record customer behaviors and patterns with the aim of improving efficiency and space utilization in retail spaces. IS2You-Wi-Go, on the other hand, convinced the jury of the value of their device “Wi-Go,” constructed to aid people with reduced mobility. Wi-Go is an autonomous device intended to allow for the transport of objects in a safe and comfortable manner and can be used in highly frequented public places such as supermarkets, shopping malls and airports.

[Learn more about StartMeUp](#)



*Around Knowledge and IS2You-Wi-Go celebrate their win*

## AMERICAN CORNERS PRIZE FINALE

Congratulations to the two winners of the 2013 American Corners Prize, Somatic Cells Biocensor (SoCe) and Can I Drive? for their convincing presentations at the event finale on June 18.

The finale was preceded by a TEDx hosted by the American Corner at Superior Technical Institute (IST), which featured keynote lectures by professors and scientists Dr. Amy Pritchett and Dr. Eric Drexler, as well as 13 other speakers from across Portugal.

Innovation was the keyword of the day, with the two winning teams ultimately proving their ideas to be the freshest and most inspired of all. SoCe is a portable biosensor engineered to make milk quality control tests more quick, efficient, and cost-effective. It has the potential to allow individual milk producers the opportunity to conduct their own analyses, thus eliminating the need to ship milk to laboratories for testing. Can I Drive? promises to reduce the occurrences of intoxicated driving by providing a way for users to assess their coordination abilities through an application that can be uploaded onto a regular Smartphone.

[Learn more about the TEDx conference](#)



*American Corners Prize winners with Ambassador Katz*

## JAMES KAKALIOS SPEAKS ABOUT SCIENCE AND SUPERHEROES

On July 7, the Embassy welcomed physics professor and renowned science speaker James Kakalios to Lisbon. Currently based at the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Minnesota where his research focuses on properties of disordered systems, Kakalios is best known for his popular lecture series in which he analyzes the physics behind comic book superheroes. These presentations, along with Kakalios' critically acclaimed books *The Physics of Superheroes* and *The Amazing Story of Quantum Mechanics*, have turned Kakalios into a popular figure on the lecture circuit and a consultant for science-based Hollywood films.

Kakalios was in Portugal from July 7-16, during which time he spoke to both high school and university students at the universities of Porto, Aveiro, Superior Technical Institute (IST) and NOVA University in Lisbon, as well as at the Ciencia Viva center in Sintra. Both young and old alike were entertained by Kakalios' humorous take on the raw mechanics behind the supernatural powers of our favorite superheroes.

[Learn more about James Kakalios](#)



*Prof. of Physics James Kakalios*

## AMERICAN ARTISTS PAINT MURAL NEAR ORIENTE STATION

Cyrcl, a Los Angeles-based duo of American street artists, were in Lisbon between June 29 and July 15 to paint a large scale mural on a wall near the Oriente train station in Lisbon. During their visit, Cyrcl, who collaborated on this project with the U.S. Embassy and Underdogs, an initiative by renowned Portuguese street artist Vhils, also created artwork for a temporary exhibit in a nearby warehouse entitled "Capture the Flag!: Conquer the Divide." The temporary exhibition, which is open to the public until August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Rua Fernando Palha, Armazém 56, focuses on a reinterpretation by the artists of the concept of America and what it means to be an American. Cyrcl are next moving to the Azores, where they will be joining other U.S. artists at [Walk and Talk Azores](#) in Ponta Delgada, which is also being supported by the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Consulate in Ponta Delgada.

[Learn more about the exhibit](#)



*Cyrcl Mural*

## AMERICAN-PORTUGUESE INTERCULTURAL YOUTH CAMP

Between July 13-27, the Embassy is hosting two sessions of an *American-Portuguese Intercultural Youth Camp*, with the expected participation of 85 campers. The goal of this camp is to familiarize Portuguese youth with American culture, history, and government, while promoting intercultural interactions between young Portuguese and American campers, all in the context of a traditional American summer-camp experience.

The campsite, located 30 minutes away from Lisbon in Branca, Coruche, will be the epicenter of activities for campers as they participate in a combination of interactive classes, fun workshops and games, group discussions and debates, site visits – including a trip to the U.S. Embassy, and volunteer opportunities.

Speakers who will discuss a variety of topics from the American political system to the role of American media will be meeting with campers to engage them in animated debate and discourse, and American youth will be on hand to offer their first-hand experiences and opinions on the topics discussed.

[Learn more about the American-Portuguese Intercultural Youth Camp](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Cyrcl exhibition/temporary gallery

- **July 12-August 2**  
Rua Fernando Palha, Armazém 56, Lisbon

[Walk and Talk Azores](#)

- **July 12-27**  
Sao Miguel, Azores

“What is the Future for Portugal” by Fulbright alum Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

- **July 24**  
FLAD, Rua do Sacramento à Lapa 21, Lisbon

Basketball Without Borders Summer Camp Powered by NBA

- **August 15 – 17**  
Lisbon, more details to follow