



June 2014 | [Clique aqui para a Versão Portuguesa](#)



[From the Ambassador's Desk](#) | [A Bi-Monthly Update from the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon](#)

MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR SHERMAN

IN THIS ISSUE

Greetings to all!

It is hard to believe that it's been nearly three months since I arrived here in Lisbon. There have been many important events in Portugal and at the Embassy since then, including several high-level U.S. government visits.



First, it is with great honor that I presented my credentials to President Cavaco Silva on May 30. I am more excited than ever about my role as the U.S. ambassador to Portugal and hope that I will meet more of you during my travels throughout the country.

Second, recent visits by the Speaker of the House (with a congressional delegation), three assistant secretaries from the Department of State, and several other high-level officials, including a private visit by former President Bill Clinton, reinforce the United States' commitment to its relationship with Portugal. Speaker John Boehner emphasized the importance of the transatlantic relationship for mutual security and prosperity. Assistant Secretary Nuland stressed a greater need for bilateral partnership to maintaining peace in Europe, especially in ending the crisis in Ukraine. Assistant Secretary Rivkin spoke of the value of entrepreneurship and the benefits of TTIP. This is timely coming ahead of the Embassy's "Connect to Success" kickoff event in July, and an upcoming delegation of American entrepreneurs who will visit Lisbon, Aveiro, and Porto, and will provide mentoring sessions to Portuguese startups during their stay.

Third, we have had many exciting programs, including speaking tours by a renowned multicultural education expert, a physics professor who is known for discussing the physics of superheroes, and an English-language education expert. And lastly, let's not forget the "Mundial" excitement between our two countries, with a recent visit by the U.S. Under-18 Men's National Team and the nail-biter match between Portugal and the USA at the World Cup on June 22 in Brazil!

Até já!

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AMBASSADOR SHERMAN PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT CAVACO SILVA

On Friday May 30, Ambassador Robert A. Sherman presented his letters of credence to the President of the Portuguese Republic, Professor Anibal Cavaco Silva. The first part of the credentialing ceremony took place at Praça do Império (in front of the Jerónimos Monastery). Ambassador Sherman was accompanied by Deputy Chief of Mission John Olson and Defense Attaché Col. William Hampton. All were saluted by a National Guard (GNR) escort. After the salute, the GNR horse-mounted escort led a procession, escorting the Ambassador's vehicle to the Palácio de Belém (the Portuguese equivalent of the White House), where the second part of the ceremony took place.

Ambassador Sherman was welcomed by Jorge Silva Lopes, Deputy Head of Protocol at the Pátio dos Bichos, the courtyard just inside the Palácio de Belém's ceremonial entrance. Ambassador Sherman received a military salute from the infantry guard of honor followed by the national anthems of both countries played by the regimental band.

The group was then escorted to the Sala Dourada and afterwards to the Sala dos Embaixadores (Ambassadors Room). There, Portugal's Chief of Protocol Ambassador António José de Almeida Lima announced the Ambassador to President Cavaco Silva. Ambassador Sherman then delivered, in a sealed envelope, the Letters of Credence as well as his predecessor's Letter of Recall at 10:50am. This marked the official and third most important part of the ceremony.

At that point, President Cavaco Silva invited Ambassador Sherman to join him in his private office for a brief conversation. After the meeting, the Ambassador returned to the room where the presentation of Credentials took place. The President then introduced the members of his Civil and Military Households to Ambassador Sherman, and the Ambassador introduced the Deputy Chief of Mission and the Defense Attaché to the President. The ceremony ended about 11:30am as the Ambassador and accompanying party left the palace and returned to the Ambassador's residence, where a short welcoming reception followed.

[Learn more about Ambassador Sherman](#)



Salute by the National Guard at Praça do Império



Ambassador Sherman presents his credentials to President Cavaco Silva

U.S. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE LEADS DELEGATION TO LISBON

John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, led a 16-person delegation to Lisbon on April 17-20, which included eight Members of Congress and their spouses. The delegation met was received by Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho, Deputy Prime Minister Paulo Portas, National Assembly President Assunção Esteves, and several cabinet ministers. In meetings, Speaker Boehner underscored the importance of the transatlantic relationship for our mutual prosperity and security. Leaders agreed that NATO needed to play a strong role in promoting stability in Europe, especially in light of the situation in Ukraine. The delegation also had some time to take in the local culture – sampling a Fado performance at the U.S. Ambassador's residence, enjoying the lovely views along the Tejo River, strolling through the castles and streets of Sintra, and visiting Fatima on Good Friday.



Speaker Boehner and the congressional delegation

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS VISITS LISBON

On April 27, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland traveled to Lisbon, where she met with senior Portuguese government officials to discuss the range of issues on the bilateral agenda. Later that day, Nuland joined a panel discussion at the Catholic University of Lisbon on Women in Leadership, Young Entrepreneurs, Youth Unemployment and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Also presenting was Isabel Vaz, CEO of Espirito Santo Saude. Fulbright alumna Isabel Gil, the Vice Rector of the university, opened the event.

Also, while in Lisbon, Nuland was interviewed by Nuno Rogeiro of the Portuguese television station SIC on the Ukraine crisis, as well as on U.S.-Portuguese relations.

[Watch the interview](#)



Victoria Nuland at the Catholic University of Lisbon

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS VISITS FABRICA DE STARTUPS

Entrepreneurs will benefit the most from the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), according to remarks by Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs Charles Rivkin. The Assistant Secretary and US Ambassador Robert Sherman spent the morning of June 4 at startup incubator Fabrica de Startups speaking to Portuguese entrepreneurs, venture capital investors, and journalists about the value of entrepreneurship and the potential benefits of a new trade agreement between the EU and the United States. 13 million jobs are already supported by trade between the EU and the United States, and the agreement will only increase that number.

The June 4 visit sets the stage for a July entrepreneurship delegation, where successful American entrepreneurs and venture capital investors will provide mentoring sessions to Portuguese startups.



Charles Rivkin speaks at Fábrica de Startups

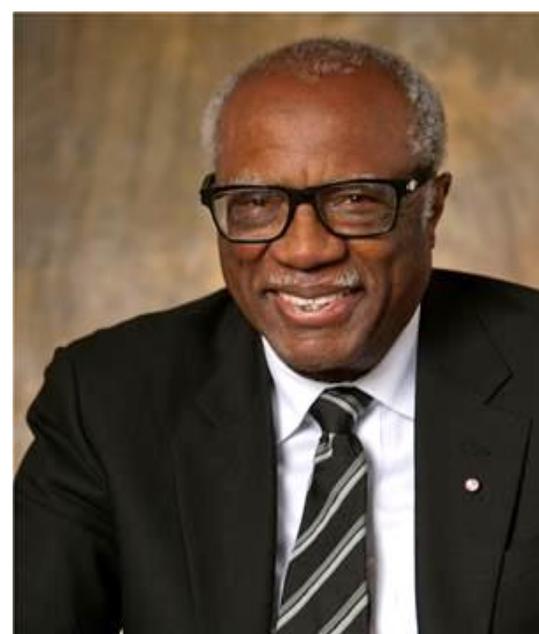
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EMBASSY

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY EXPERT ENGAGES PORTUGUESE AUDIENCE

In light of the growth of Portugal as a multicultural society, the Embassy brought over Prof. James Banks, a renowned expert in multicultural education and diversity, to engage with key figures in government, the educational sector and academia in Portugal.

Prof. Banks and Deputy Chief of Mission John Olson met with key Portuguese stakeholders regarding multiculturalism in education and society, including a noted academic, the high commissioner for migration, senior education ministry officials, as well as the secretary of state covering the migration portfolio.

James Banks was a guest speaker at the annual Association of Anglo-American Studies (APEAA) meeting. At the event, he gave a talk on multicultural education, interacting with key academics, teachers and researchers and leading a lively debate on the issues surrounding multiculturalism in both education and society.



James Banks

PHYSICIST GIVES TALKS IN AZORES & MADEIRA ON THE PHYSICS OF SUPERHEROES

The islands of Azores and Madeira welcomed physics professor and renowned science speaker James Kakalios for a series of talks on the physics of superheroes. 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.

During his stay in the Azores and Madeira, James Kakalios, spoke to school and university students, teachers and professors at different venues, who equally appreciated his humorous take on the raw mechanics behind the supernatural powers of our favorite superheroes.



James Kakalios

LANGUAGE EDUCATION EXPERT AND SPELLING BEE ENGAGE PARTICIPANTS AT APPI CONFERENCE

The U.S. Embassy Lisbon invited Professor Patricia Szasz to speak at the 28th APPI (Associação Portuguesa de Professores de Inglês) conference, held in Porto on May 1-3. Professor Szasz, Assistant Dean for Language & Professional Programs at Monterey Institute of International Studies, presented a well-attended opening plenary entitled "Empowering Students to Become Global Citizens," and a follow-up workshop on "Intercultural Competence: Strategies for Teachers and Students." Prior to the APPI conference, Professor Patricia Szasz led a similar workshop on April 29 at American Corner-FLUL in Lisbon and April 30 at American Corner-Porto.

Furthermore, at the APPI conference, the U.S. Embassy Lisbon's Office of Public Affairs presented a workshop on "Become the Beemaster: Organizing your Own English Spelling Bees," which in addition to demonstrating a mock spelling bee, participants learned how to prepare and host a spelling bee event at their schools and organize regional events.

APPI is an organization of teachers who teach the language and culture of English speaking countries throughout Portugal.



Patricia Szasz



Mock Spelling Bee

U.S. U-18 MEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM VISITS ASSOCIAÇÃO CULTURAL MOINHO DA JUVENTUDE

Nearly every year, the United States Soccer Federation's Under-18 Men's National Team visits Lisbon for a tournament against various European countries. This year is especially exciting for soccer given the FIFA World Cup in Brazil. The team's head coordinator was Eddie Lewis, a former player for the U.S. National Team and a two-time World Cup veteran. Along with several Embassy personnel, the U.S. team ventured into the Cova da Moura neighborhood to visit the Associação Cultural Moinho da Juventude and participate in a little soccer action with local youth.

Following a tour of their facilities, the Associação Cultural Moinho da Juventude explained their dedication to the community through social events, sports and assistance regarding areas such as children's schoolwork or better living conditions. A large group of local children, ages 8-12, joined the U.S. team for some soccer workshops, followed by a short scrimmage with players on each team being a mix of local children and the national team players. The scrimmage was trailed by a donation of US soccer jerseys to the local players. The children then had their jerseys signed by the U.S. players and said their goodbyes. Both sides were grateful for the opportunity to be united by sport and receive a preview of different cultures.



Cova da Moura children play soccer with the U.S. team



The U.S. team poses for a photo with local youth

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Alumni Project is Finalist at Grant Competition

Portugal's alumni team project for the 2014 Alumni Innovation Engagement Fund (AEIF) grant competition was selected as one of the finalists on May 6, out of 1,000+ submitted proposals worldwide! The project, "A New Beginning for Portugal," led by Sandra Correia (International Visitors Leadership Program, 2013), is a mentoring program that provides an opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to be guided by seasoned entrepreneurs in entrepreneurship. The winning projects will be announced in late June at the International Exchange Alumni website: alumni.state.gov.

[Learn more about AEIF](#)



"A New Beginning for Portugal" is among the finalists

Alumna Selected to Attend Youth Conference in Bratislava

On May 10, Joana Larsen (Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship, 2013) was among the twenty-two young people selected from across Europe to participate in the Young Leaders of Tomorrow's Europe, a conference that enhances young Europeans' leadership skills, national identity and intercultural awareness, which takes place on August 11-14 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Joana exemplifies youth activism—she is an active member of ABC Justice (see below), a fellow of the youth group at the local museum, a volunteer for AIESEC (an international NGO), and a writer for a Portuguese student website. She is studying communication and journalism at Nova University in Lisbon.



Joana Larsen

Alumni Project Helps Youth Learn About the Criminal Justice System

Last year's winning Alumni Innovation Engagement Fund (AEIF) project, ABC Justice, is now conducting information sessions to youth audiences throughout Portugal, which started with a session at the Catholic University of Lisbon on May 8, 2014 and will include sessions all over mainland Portugal, the Azores and Madeira. The program aims to increase the transparency of Portugal's criminal justice system for the youth through a creative public information campaign—consisting of an interactive website, information sessions in schools, and visits to courts and police stations. Local partners of the program include the Association to Support Victims of Crime (APAV), local law enforcement, local bar and legal associations, and local schools and community organizers. After the successful pilot program ends, the program will be shared with other organizations across Europe.



Youth learn about the Portuguese criminal justice system

UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES

- **“Voices from Heaven” 4th of July Choral Concert by the JSerra Catholic High School Chamber Singers – July 5@7:00-8:00 p.m.**
Palácio Foz (Sala dos Espelhos), Lisbon
- **Communicating Math To Youth by Christopher Emdin (Math professor at Columbia University and co-creator of the #HipHopEd social media movement) – July 11-16**
American Corner, University of Aveiro – July 11@4:00-5:00 p.m.; July 13@ 3:30-4:30 p.m.; July 16@11:00-12:45 p.m.
American Corner, University of Porto – July 11@11:00 a.m.
American Corner, FCT, NOVA University, Caparica Campus – July 14@2:00-3:00 p.m.; July 15@12:00-1:00 p.m.
American Corner, Instituto Superior Técnico, Campus da Alameda –July 15@3:00-5:00 p.m.
- **“Angel Investing: How Can you Make your Business More Attractive to Investors” - Roundtable with U.S. and Portuguese Angel Investors – July 15 @ 5:00-6:30 p.m. (to be confirmed)**
Catholic University of Lisbon, School of Business & Economics